Fiscal Estimate - 2011 Session

Original Updated	☐ S	Supplemental			
LRB Number 11-2681/1	Introduction Number SB	-178			
Description Differential tuition at certain institutions and colleges of the University of Wisconsin System					
Fiscal Effect					
Appropriations Reve	ease Existing enues rease Existing enues Decrease Costs - Marketing to absorb within a Pes Decrease Costs				
Local: No Local Government Costs Indeterminate 1. Increase Costs Permissive Mandatory 2. Decrease Costs Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory Districts School Districts					
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations GPR FED PRS SEG SEGS 20.285 (1)(gb)					
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date			
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives UWS 9/9/2011

LRB Number 11-2681/1	Introduction Number	SB-178	Estimate Type	Corrected	
Description					
Differential tuition at certain institutions and colleges of the University of Wisconsin System					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

2011 Act 32 limits tuition increases on resident undergraduate students to 5.5 percent in both years of the 2011-13 biennium. As base tuition is expected to increase by 5.5 percent in order to offset GPR reductions, the limit had the potential to prevent increases to existing differential tuition programs. However, Act 32 exempted differential tuition programs that were approved before June 1, 2011 from the limit.

The 5.5 percent limit in Act 32 does, however, prevent the implementation of any new differential tuition programs during the biennium.

Based on the analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau, it appears that the intent of SB 178 is to permit the implementation of new differential tuition programs at UW-Stevens Point, UW-Green Bay, UW-Parkside, and the UW Colleges. Any differential tuition program approved at these institutions must be approved under the policies in place before June 1, 2011.

Differential tuition programs generally establish a tuition surcharge above the standard tuition rate in support of educational quality and student access initiatives. As such, a new differential tuition program would increase tuition revenue (PR). However, because UW System Administration has not yet received any proposals for a new differential tuition program, no revenue estimates can be made.

It should be noted that the construction of the language appears to have an unintended consequence. 2011 Act 32 section 9152 (1pc)(b) currently exempts differential tuition programs approved by the Board before June 1, 2011 from the tuition restrictions in section 9152 (1pc)(a). Implementing SB 178 as currently constructed would remove that exemption. This would prevent planned differential tuition increases at UW-Madison, UW-Eau Claire, UW-River Falls, UW-Superior, and UW-La Crosse.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications