



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2011 Assembly Bill 142

Assembly Amendment 2

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Under *current law*, the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) awards talent incentive program grants, not to exceed \$1,800 per student during a given academic year, to uniquely needy students attending colleges and universities in Wisconsin. First-time grant recipients are chosen as freshmen by school financial aid officers or by counselors of the Wisconsin Educational Opportunities Program. The grants may be awarded for no more than 10 consecutive semesters. HEAB is required to promulgate rules establishing eligibility criteria for the grants.

Assembly Bill 142 amends the law to provide that a grant recipient remains eligible for grant awards for a total of 10 semesters within six years of the initial grant. In other words, the recipient need not maintain continuous enrollment in a higher education institution.

Assembly Amendment 2 provides that in promulgating rules, HEAB may not establish membership in a minority group specified in s. 39.44 (1) (a) 1. to 4., Stats., as an eligibility criterion for a grant. The minority groups referred to in that statutory provision are: Black Americans, American Indians, Hispanics (persons of any race whose ancestors originated in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central America or South America or whose culture or origin is Spanish), or a person who is admitted to the United States after December 31, 1975, and who either is a former citizen of Laos, Vietnam, or Cambodia or whose ancestor was or is a citizen of Laos, Vietnam, or Cambodia.

Legislative History

Assembly Amendment 2 was offered by Representative Krusick and adopted by the Assembly on November 1, 2011, on a vote of Ayes, 58; Noes, 35.

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