



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-2470/1
ARG:kjf

2015 SENATE BILL 190

June 2, 2015 – Introduced by Senators LASSA, CARPENTER, WIRCH, HANSEN, SHILLING, HARRIS DODD, L. TAYLOR and RINGHAND, cosponsored by Representatives HESSELBEIN, THIESFELDT, GOYKE, MILROY, SUBECK, OHNSTAD, WACHS, SINICKI, JOHNSON, POPE, CONSIDINE, ZAMARRIPA, BERCEAU, HEBL, SHANKLAND, SPREITZER, RIEMER, KOLSTE, KESSLER, BARCA and JORGENSEN. Referred to Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber* 38.12 (7); *to amend* 36.31 (title); and *to create* 36.11 (3)
2 (cm) 6., 36.31 (4) and 38.12 (7) (b) of the statutes; **relating to:** University of
3 Wisconsin and technical college credits based on military training or
4 experience.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law requires the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin (UW) System to establish policies for transferring credits between UW System institutions and allows the Board of Regents to establish policies for credit transfers with other educational institutions. The Board of Regents and the Technical College System (TCS) Board must also enter into an agreement, which private colleges may join, for transferring credits for core general education courses.

Current law also requires technical college district boards to establish district policies, which are subject to review and approval by the TCS Board.

This bill requires the Board of Regents and technical college district boards to establish policies requiring, respectively, UW System institutions and technical colleges to award academic credit to a student who is a current or former member of the U.S. armed forces or of a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces (veteran) for any course that was part of the veteran's military training or service experience if the veteran demonstrates that the course: 1) meets the standards of the American Council on Education, or equivalent standards, for awarding academic credit; and 2) is similar in subject matter to a course offered by the UW System institution or technical college.

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For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 36.11 (3) (cm) 6. of the statutes is created to read:

2 36.11 (3) (cm) 6. Courses for which credits are awarded under s. 36.31 (4).

3 **SECTION 2.** 36.31 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 **36.31 (title) Coordination with other educational agencies; credit for**
5 **military training or experience.**

6 **SECTION 3.** 36.31 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

7 36.31 (4) (a) In this subsection, “veteran” means a student who is a current or
8 former member of the U.S. armed forces or of a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces.

9 (b) The board shall establish a policy that requires institutions to award
10 academic credit to a veteran for any course that was part of the veteran’s military
11 training or service experience if the veteran demonstrates all of the following:

12 1. That the course meets the standards of the American Council on Education,
13 or equivalent standards, for awarding academic credit.

14 2. That the course is similar in subject matter to a course offered by the
15 institution.

16 **SECTION 4.** 38.12 (7) of the statutes is renumbered 38.12 (7) (a).

17 **SECTION 5.** 38.12 (7) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

18 38.12 (7) (b) The district board policies under par. (a) shall include a
19 requirement that each technical college in the district award academic credit to a
20 veteran, as defined in s. 36.31 (4) (a), for any course that was part of the veteran’s

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1 military training or service experience if the veteran demonstrates all of the
2 following:

3 1. That the course meets the standards of the American Council on Education,
4 or equivalent standards, for awarding academic credit.

5 2. That the course is similar in subject matter to a course offered by the
6 technical college.

7 (END)