

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

WTCS 5/20/2015

LRB Number	15-1848/1	Introduction Number	SB-164	Estimate Type	Original
Description Charging resident fees to nonresident veterans and their family members attending technical colleges					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Senate Bil1 164 seeks a change in statutory requirement that WTCS colleges charge non-residents a tuition rate that is 150% of resident tuition. Instead, non-resident veterans and their eligible spouse or child would be charged resident tuition rates.

The proposed change is required to ensure continued eligibility of WTCS colleges for reimbursement of educational costs for serving veterans who are eligible for particular federal programs, such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Last year, WTSCS colleges received \$5.3 million in federal reimbursement of veteran tuition costs under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Under the bill, veterans living in state, regardless of whether they are Wisconsin residents, can qualify for resident tuition from within 90 days of discharge from active duty to within three years before date of enrollment in technical college. Once enrolled at resident rates, veterans or qualifying spouse or child continue to qualify for resident tuition rates as long as they are continuously enrolled in a WTCS college.

Last year, WTCS colleges served 64 veterans whom records indicate were nonresident. It is not clear how many of these non-resident veterans may have actually been living in the state (and thus potentially qualify for resident tuition under the bill) or if additional veterans living in the state but not qualifying as Wisconsin residents may seek to attend college under the new provisions that they pay only resident tuition.

For each non-resident veteran who qualifies for resident versus non-resident tuition and attends full-time, there is a reduction in college tuition revenue of \$1,833. If the 64 non-resident veterans served last year all attended full-time, the annual loss in tuition statewide would be approximately \$117,500. Increases in the number of non-resident veteran, spouses or children would mean further reductions in college tuition revenue.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

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It is not possible to forecast the extent to which additional non-resident veterans may seek to enroll in a WTCS college but the bill would slightly reduce revenue at college level.