AN ACT to amend 39.435 (7) (b) 2. and 39.435 (7) (b) 2m.; and to create 39.435 (7) (b) 3. and 3m. of the statutes; relating to: funding for Wisconsin grants for technical college and University of Wisconsin System students and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill increases the appropriation for Wisconsin grants for technical college and University of Wisconsin System students.

Under current law, the Wisconsin grant program, administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB), provides grants to postsecondary resident students enrolled at least half time and registered as freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors in specified postsecondary institutions, including technical colleges and UW System institutions. Wisconsin grants for UW System students are funded from an appropriation in which the appropriation amount is calculated by HEAB by adding the average percentage increase in undergraduate academic fees at the institutions within the UW System to the amount appropriated in the previous year.

This bill increases HEAB’s biennial appropriation for Wisconsin grants for technical college students by $27,849,500 in fiscal year 2015–16 and in fiscal year 2016–17 and adds $2,895,400 annually to HEAB’s appropriation for Wisconsin grants for UW System students.
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:

SECTION 1. 39.435 (7) (b) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

39.435 (7) (b) 2. The Subject to subd. 3., the appropriation for the first fiscal year of the next biennium shall be the result obtained by increasing, to the nearest $100, the base amount by the average of the percentage increases determined under subd. 1., except that, if the undergraduate academic fees for the next academic year are estimated to decrease or not change from the undergraduate academic fees charged for the current academic year at each institution specified in subd. 1., the appropriation shall be the base amount.

SECTION 2. 39.435 (7) (b) 2m. of the statutes is amended to read:

39.435 (7) (b) 2m. The Subject to subd. 3m., the appropriation for the 2nd fiscal year of the next biennium shall be the result obtained by increasing, to the nearest $100, the base amount by the average of the percentage increases determined under subd. 1m., except that, if the undergraduate academic fees for the academic year after the next academic year are estimated to decrease or not change from the estimated undergraduate academic fees charged for the next academic year at each institution specified in subd. 1m., the appropriation shall be the base amount.

SECTION 3. 39.435 (7) (b) 3. and 3m. of the statutes are created to read:

39.435 (7) (b) 3. To the amount calculated under subd. 2., the board shall add $2,895,400.

3m. To the amount calculated under subd. 2m., the board shall add $2,895,400.

(1) Notwithstanding the date specified in section 39.435 (7) (b) (intro.) of the statutes, the higher educational aids board shall, within 10 days after the effective date of this subsection, recalculate the amount to be appropriated under section 20.235 (1) (fe) of the statutes for fiscal years 2015–16 and 2016–17 according to the formula set forth in section 39.435 (7) of the statutes, as affected by this act, and the amount calculated under this subsection shall be the amount used for purposes of section 20.235 (1) (fe) of the statutes for these fiscal years.

SECTION 5. Fiscal changes.

(1) GRANTS TO TECHNICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS. In the schedule under section 20.005 (3) of the statutes for the appropriation to the higher educational aids board under section 20.235 (1) (ff) of the statutes, as affected by the acts of 2015, the dollar amount for fiscal year 2015–16 is increased by $27,849,500 to increase funding for the purpose for which the appropriation is made. In the schedule under section 20.005 (3) of the statutes for the appropriation to the higher educational aids board under section 20.235 (1) (ff) of the statutes, as affected by the acts of 2015, the dollar amount for fiscal year 2016–17 is increased by $27,849,500 to increase funding for the purpose for which the appropriation is made.

(END)