WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 314 [2017 Assembly Bill 804]	University of Wisconsin System Merit Scholarships

2017 Wisconsin Act 314 requires the Board of Regents to award merit-based annual $5,000 scholarships to students enrolled in two- or four-year University of Wisconsin (UW) System schools who have graduated from an in-state high school or been granted a high school diploma by the administrator of an in-state home-based private educational program. The Act requires the Board of Regents to determine student merit based on performance on standardized college entrance examinations and, if applicable, cumulative high school grade point averages.

Under prior law, income and interest from the normal school fund is appropriated to the Board of Regents to do the following annually:

1. Make need-based grants totaling $100,000 to students at the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies who are members of underrepresented groups;

2. Provide scholarships totaling $100,000 to students enrolled in the Sustainable Management Degree program through the UW-Extension; and

3. Award the balance to UW-Stevens Point for environmental programs.

Under the Act, the first two categories funded by the normal school fund remain unchanged. However, the Act requires that the Board of Regents provide $300,000 annually to UW-Stevens Point for environmental programs and award the balance of the income and interest from the normal school fund to the scholarships created by the Act.

The Act also gives the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands authority to sell lands from any of the board's trust funds to another of the board's trust funds for the appraised value of the land.

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