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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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**Prepared by:** Dan Schmidt, Deputy Director

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**2019 Wisconsin Act 149**  
[2019 Senate Bill 537]

**Private School GI Bill**

### CURRENT LAW

Under current law, certain veterans, their spouses, and dependents are entitled to a tuition benefit that may be used to attend any University of Wisconsin System (UW System) institution or Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) institution. This benefit, commonly known as the Wisconsin GI bill, provides a 100% waiver of tuition and fees for eligible veterans and their dependents for up to eight full-time semesters or 128 credits, whichever is longer, at a UW System or WTCS institution.

### 2019 WISCONSIN ACT 149

2019 Wisconsin Act 149 establishes a new grant program, to be administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board, for the benefit of students who would qualify for tuition remission under the Wisconsin GI bill at UW System or WTCS institutions, but who choose to attend certain private institutions instead. Under the act, students eligible for the program may receive grants for the longer of 128 credits or eight semesters, less the number of credits, sessions, or semesters that the student has already received from UW System or WTCS institutions under the current Wisconsin GI bill.

Individuals who receive the grants provided under the act or the Wisconsin GI bill are limited to the total number of grants they may receive under the two programs. Therefore, an eligible student may elect to participate in either the program created under the act or the Wisconsin GI bill, or both, but the student may not receive more than the longer of 128 credits or eight semesters in total.

**Effective date:** The act first applies to students enrolled for the first semester or session beginning after March 5, 2020.

DWS:mca;ksm