
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



Memo published: October 24, 2019

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2019 Senate Bill 44

Senate Substitute Amendment 2

2019 SENATE BILL 44

2019 Senate Bill 44 establishes a grant program, administered by the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), for the benefit of technical college students who have undertaken an apprenticeship program, as currently defined by statute, in conjunction with their course of instruction at the technical college. Grants may only be awarded for the purpose of assisting students in paying materials expenses associated with an apprenticeship program, including costs of purchasing tools, clothing, equipment, and supplies. The WTCS Board is charged with creating an application process and criteria for awarding these grants. The bill requires that the WTCS Board criteria consider financial need as well as anticipated or actual expenses of an applicant. Grants may not exceed \$1,000 per student under the program and the WTCS Board may not award more than \$100,000 in total grants per academic year. The bill also appropriates \$100,000 in fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21 to the WTCS Board for program expenses.

SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 2

Senate Substitute Amendment 2 replaces the grant program created by the bill with a grant program that is available for the benefit of both technical college students and tribal college students. Under the amendment, the WTCS Board is responsible for administering the grants for WTCS students, and the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) is responsible for administering grants for tribal college students. Similar to the bill, the grants may only be awarded for the purpose of assisting students in paying materials expenses. Rather than directing the administering boards to establish criteria, the amendment limits those students who may receive grants to students who are enrolled in an apprenticeship program in the semester the grant is made as well as the semester following the semester the grant is made. In addition, the boards may not award a grant unless the following items are included with a grant application:

- A recommendation form signed by the student's apprenticeship employer or another person in the trades.
- A statement of how the award would help the student complete the student's apprenticeship program.
- A statement signed by the student certifying all of the following:
 - That the student will be enrolled in the apprenticeship program in the following semester.
 - That the student will use the grant award to pay for materials expenses, such as the cost of tools, equipment, and clothing, that are directly related to the apprenticeship program.

The amendment permits the administering boards to structure the grant program to further incentivize the completion of apprenticeship programs.

Grants made under the amendment are increased to the lesser of up to \$1,500 per student or a student's actual materials expenses. WTCS may award up to \$100,000 in apprenticeship grants and HEAB may award up to \$21,000 in grants under the proposed program. Thus, the amendment appropriates \$100,000 to the WTCS Board and \$21,000 to HEAB, per year, for the costs associated with the grant program over the 2019-21 biennium.

BILL HISTORY

On October 21, 2019, Senator Jacque offered Senate Substitute Amendment 2. On October 23, 2019, the Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business, Tourism, and Workforce Development unanimously recommended adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended.

AB:ksm