February 24, 2022 – Introduced by Senator TESTIN, cosponsored by Representatives WITKE, DRAKE, KERKMAN and ROZAR. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT to renumber 115.385 (4); and to create 39.40 (6) and (7) and 115.385 (4) (b) of the statutes; relating to: minority teacher loan program information.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Higher Educational Aids Board administers a minority teacher loan program which provides a maximum of $30,000 in loans to eligible minority students. The loans may be repaid to HEAB, or may be forgiven if the eligible recipient satisfies certain conditions, including that the recipient hold a full-time teaching position in an elementary or secondary school in this state in which minority students constitute at least 40 percent of the membership and that the recipient receive certain effectiveness ratings in his or her teaching work.

This bill requires HEAB to provide notice of the minority teacher loan program to all incoming freshmen and transfer students at all institutions of higher education in this state that have a state superintendent of public instruction–approved teacher preparatory program. The bill also requires HEAB to provide an annual report to the education-related standing committees of the legislature regarding the minority teacher loan program’s participation levels, loan disbursements, and aggregate details related to the status of all open and closed loan recipient accounts.

The bill also requires each public high school, including each charter school that operates grade 11 or 12, to provide notice of the minority teacher loan program to each pupil in grades 11 and 12.
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. 39.40 (6) and (7) of the statutes are created to read:

39.40 (6) Beginning with the 2022-23 academic year, the board shall create a notice of the minority teacher loan program under this section and distribute the notice by mail and electronic mail to all incoming freshman and transfer students at all institutions of higher education, as defined in 20 USC 1001 (a) and (b), that have a teacher preparatory program described in s. 115.28 (7) (a) or (e) 2.

(7) Beginning in 2023, the board shall annually by July 1 submit to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature, for distribution under s. 13.172 (3) to the appropriate legislative standing committees generally responsible for legislation related to education and higher education, a report regarding the participation levels, loan disbursements, and aggregate details related to the status of all open and closed loan recipient accounts under the minority teacher loan program under this section.

SECTION 2. 115.385 (4) of the statutes, as affected by 2021 Wisconsin Act 83, is renumbered 115.385 (4) (a).

SECTION 3. 115.385 (4) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

115.385 (4) (b) Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, each public high school, including each charter school that operates grade 11 or 12, shall, simultaneously with the information provided under par. (a), provide to each pupil in grades 11 and 12 notice of the minority teacher loan program under s. 36.40.