

Fiscal Estimate - 2023 Session

Original Updated Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number **23-4893/1** Introduction Number **AB-0554**

Description
race-based higher education programs and requirements

Fiscal Effect

State:

- No State Fiscal Effect
- Indeterminate
 - Increase Existing Appropriations
 - Decrease Existing Appropriations
 - Create New Appropriations
 - Increase Existing Revenues
 - Decrease Existing Revenues
 - Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget
 - Yes
 - No
 - Decrease Costs

Local:

- No Local Government Costs
- Indeterminate
 - 1. Increase Costs 3. Increase Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory
 - 2. Decrease Costs 4. Decrease Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory
 - 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected
 - Towns Village Cities
 - Counties Others
 - School Districts WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected **Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations**

GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEGS

Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

WTCS 10/26/2023

LRB Number	23-4893/1	Introduction Number	AB-0554	Estimate Type	Original
Description race-based higher education programs and requirements					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Assembly Bill 554 modifies certain race-based programs or requirements in higher education to apply these programs and requirements to disadvantaged students rather than minority students. This fiscal estimate addresses only those provisions related to the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board and technical college districts.

The bill modifies the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant program so that the program is available to disadvantaged undergraduate students rather than minority undergraduate students. Because the program is administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board by evenly distributing funds to private, nonprofit colleges and technical colleges, there is no fiscal impact on the WTCS Board. The bill does not change the amount of funding distributed to the colleges nor does it change the current law provision that receiving colleges must award grants to eligible students on the basis of financial need. The fiscal impact of this program modification on technical college districts is unknown, but is expected to be minimal.

The bill changes the WTCS Board minority student participation and retention plan to the disadvantaged student participation and retention plan and modifies the associated provisions to disadvantaged students rather than minority students. The bill specifies that in determining whether a student is disadvantaged, the student's race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or religion may not be considered, either directly or indirectly. There will be administrative costs to the WTCS Board to modify data collection and reporting to accommodate the change from minority students to disadvantaged students. These modifications to data collection and reporting are expected to be one-time administrative costs that can be absorbed within the agency budget. Similarly, technical college districts will incur administrative costs associated with modifying their reporting on the plan, but these costs are expected to be minimal given most of the data collection takes place at the system level.

The bill modifies the WTCS Board minority student participation and retention grant program requirements so that grants are awarded for programs related to disadvantaged students rather than minority students. The appropriation from which these grants are funded, s. 20.292(1)(f), is unchanged by the bill. As a result, the same amount of grant funding will be available to technical college districts to be used for programs related to disadvantaged students and the fiscal impact on technical college districts will be minimal. Any administrative costs to the WTCS Board related to grant program changes are expected to be minimal and can be absorbed within the agency budget.

Finally, the bill modifies the WTCS Board incentive grants to technical colleges for the purpose of the creation or expansion of adult high school, adult education, and English as a second language courses by eliminating a provision that prioritizes courses serving minority students. The remaining provisions that prioritize courses serving students with disabilities or unemployed or disadvantaged students are unchanged under the bill. The appropriation from which these grants are funded, s. 20.292(1)(f), is unchanged by the bill. As a result, the same amount of grant funding will be available to technical college districts to be used for incentive grants and the fiscal impact on technical college districts will be minimal. Any administrative costs to the WTCS Board related to grant program changes are expected to be minimal and can be absorbed within the agency budget.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications