

### Fiscal Estimate - 2025 Session

Original                     
  Updated                     
  Corrected                     
  Supplemental

LRB Number <b>25-1779/1</b>	Introduction Number <b>AB-0047</b>
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**Description**  
 tuition and fee remission for certain veterans and their dependents enrolled in the University of Wisconsin System or a technical college

**Fiscal Effect**

**State:**

<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget
<input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations		

**Local:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs	<b>5. Types of Local Government Units Affected</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
	2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
		<input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts

<b>Fund Sources Affected</b>	<b>Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS	

<b>Agency/Prepared By</b> UWS/ Mickie Krall (608) 262-9106	<b>Authorized Signature</b> Renee Stephenson (608) 263-4422	<b>Date</b> 3/6/2025
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## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

UWS 3/6/2025

LRB Number	<b>25-1779/1</b>	Introduction Number	<b>AB-0047</b>	Estimate Type	<b>Original</b>
<b>Description</b> tuition and fee remission for certain veterans and their dependents enrolled in the University of Wisconsin System or a technical college					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill would expand the Wisconsin GI Bill by modifying the residency requirement for the tuition and fee remission program for certain veterans and their spouses and children that are enrolled in UW System institutions.

The UW System has no way of knowing how many potential veterans, spouses, and children would be eligible under this new program. The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs determines the service-connected disability rating and the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs verifies whether someone meets the status as a veteran.

The UW System currently receives between \$4.5 and \$4.8 million in GPR to reimburse costs for the tuition remission program; however, this does not cover the full cost of the remission program.

The bill would eliminate the "5-year" pools of eligible students created by 2015 Act 20 and 2017 Act 29. Instead, non-Wisconsin veterans, as well as children and spouses of 30 percent or more disabled non-Wisconsin veterans, would be eligible for Wisconsin GI Bill benefits immediately upon establishing residency in Wisconsin.

### Long-Range Fiscal Implications

There is now more than a decade of cost data that includes impacts of adding the "5-year" non-Wisconsin veterans and their children and spouses. In the second year of the biennium after the 5-year expansions were approved, fiscal year 2015-16 for veterans and fiscal year 2018-19 for children, remissions costs rose sharply, 18 percent for veterans and 14 percent for children and spouses. In years after the 5-year expansions remissions for children and spouses have continued to rise rapidly while remissions for veterans stabilized.

Assuming historical rates of change for beneficiaries in fiscal year 2024-25 and projecting increases in fiscal year 2025-26 based on actual experience following expansions is a reasonable approach when it is unknown how many potential beneficiaries are currently living in Wisconsin or will move to Wisconsin. Under this approach, total remissions for veterans are estimated at \$10.2 million in fiscal year 2024-25 and \$12.0 million in fiscal year 2025-26. Remissions for children and spouses are estimated at \$24.3 million in fiscal year 2024-25 and \$30.7 million in fiscal year 2025-26.

Under the bill, remissions in fiscal year 2025-26 are estimated to be \$5.8 million greater than expected under current law with 5-year historical growth rates of -2 percent for veterans and 11 percent for children and spouses.