State of Wisconsin
2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5004/1
ARG:ajk&emw

2025 ASSEMBLY BILL 545

October 15, 2025 - Introduced by Representatives MELOTIK, MURPHY, BEHNKE, GUNDRUM, KNODL, KREIBICH, O'CONNOR, PIWOWARCZYK, DITTRICH and WICHGERS, cosponsored by Senators HUTTON and NASS. Referred to Committee on Colleges and Universities.

AN ACT ***to amend*** 36.27 (1) (a); ***to create*** 36.27 (1) (c) of the statutes; **relating to:** course fees at University of Wisconsin System institutions.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System to establish tuition and fees for educational programs, including special course fees.

This bill prohibits a UW System institution from charging a student an online course fee for enrolling in a course offered exclusively online unless the fee is charged to cover the institution's actual costs in offering the course online that would not be incurred if students attended the course in person.

For further information see the state 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. 36.27 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

36.27 **(1)** (a) Subject to ~~par.~~ pars. (b) and (c), the board may establish for different classes of students differing tuition and fees incidental to enrollment in

educational programs or use of facilities in the system. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the board may charge any student who is not exempted by this section a nonresident tuition. The board may establish special rates of tuition and fees for the extension and summer sessions and such other studies or courses of instruction as the board deems advisable.

SECTION 2. 36.27 (1) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

36.27 **(1)** (c) The board shall ensure that no student is charged an incidental or supplemental fee for enrolling in a course offered exclusively online unless any of the following applies:

1. The fee is charged to cover actual costs incurred by an institution that are specifically attributable to offering the course online and that would not be incurred by the institution if students attended the course in person.

2. The fee is also charged for enrolling in an equivalent course offered for in-person attendance.

SECTION 3. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to the first semester or session beginning at least 30 days after the effective date of this subsection.

(END)