



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 42 [2003 Assembly Bill 74]	Tuition Vouchers for Sounding “Taps”
2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/	Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) currently administers the military funeral honors program, with assistance from veterans service organizations and the Wisconsin National Guard. Under the program, the family of a deceased veteran may notify a funeral director of its desire to have military honors rendered at the veteran’s funeral. Depending on the availability of personnel, various honors may be rendered, including firing rifle volleys, sounding “Taps,” and folding the flag for presentation to the veteran’s family.

Under 2003 Wisconsin Act 42, a student in grades 6 to 12 or in a Wisconsin public or private college or university is eligible for a \$25 tuition voucher if he or she sounds “Taps” on a bugle, trumpet, or cornet at a military honors funeral held in the state.

The Act requires the University of Wisconsin (UW) System Board of Regents and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board to grant an eligible student a \$25 tuition or academic fee remission for each voucher issued to the student. The tuition voucher may be used at any time for the payment of tuition or academic fees at a UW System institution or a WTCS school. For UW System schools, the student must be enrolled as an undergraduate. The DVA is directed to encourage private colleges and universities to accept the vouchers. The vouchers are not transferable.

Act 42 requires the DVA to create a tuition voucher form for use by funeral directors and to distribute copies of the form, and an explanation of the form’s use, to every operator of a funeral establishment. The department cannot charge a fee for the voucher form or for the distribution of the form.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.

The Act directs the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to encourage school boards to grant an excused absence to a student in grades 6 to 12 for the purpose of sounding “Taps” at a military honors funeral.

For additional information about the military funeral honors program, see the link to “funeral honors” at <http://dva.state.wi.us>.

Effective Date: The Act takes effect on August 26, 2003.

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