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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
AMENDMENT MEMO**

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<b>2005 Senate Bill 613</b>	<b>Senate Amendment 1 and Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Amendment 1</b>
<i>Memo published:</i> March 3, 2006	<i>Contact:</i> Pam Shannon, Senior Staff Attorney (266-2680) Mary Offerdahl, Staff Attorney (266-2230)

*Under current law*, the University of Wisconsin System and the technical college district boards are required to provide a 50% tuition remission to eligible veterans who entered service from Wisconsin, are residents for purposes of receiving veterans benefits under ch. 45, Stats., and meet service-related requirements. In addition, the spouses, unremarried surviving spouses, and children of eligible veterans receive a 100% tuition remission. In order for a family member to receive the remission, the veteran, among other requirements, must have entered service from Wisconsin and while a resident of the state, either: (1) died on active duty or died in the line of duty while in training; or (2) incurred at least a 30% service-connected disability rating from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

*Senate Bill 613* makes the following changes to the tuition remission program:

- a. Increases the remission for veterans from 50% to 100%.
- b. Adds veterans who died as the result of a service-connected disability (regardless of whether they received a disability rating prior to death) as another category of veterans whose family members are eligible for the remission.
- c. Eliminates the requirement that a veteran had to have been a resident of Wisconsin when he or she incurred at least a 30% disability rating in order for a family member to receive the remission.

*Senate Bill 613* generally takes effect on July 1, 2006.

*Senate Amendment 1* provides that all of the changes in the tuition remission program described above would first apply to students enrolling for classes in the 2007-08 academic year.

*Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Amendment 1* would delay until the 2007-08 academic year only the provisions increasing the remission for veterans from 50% to 100%. The language making the family members of veterans who died as a result of a service-connected disability eligible for the tuition

remission and removing the requirement that the service member had to have been a resident when incurring the 30% disability rating would take effect on July 1, 2006, as would the remaining provisions of the bill.

**Legislative History**

On February 22, 2006, the Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform introduced Senate Amendment 1, recommended adoption of Senate Amendment 1, and recommended passage of Senate Bill 613 as amended, on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Scott Fitzgerald. In floor action on March 2, 2006, the Senate adopted Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Amendment 1 and Senate Amendment 1 as amended on voice votes, then passed the bill as amended on a vote of Ayes, 32; Noes, 0.

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