Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO

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2023 Senate Bill **367**

Senate Substitute Amendment 1

2023 SENATE BILL 367

2023 Senate Bill 367 requires the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System (UWS) and each Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) district board to establish a guaranteed admissions program for applicants who achieve certain academic rankings. Specifically, under the bill, applicants who have or will graduate from a public, private, or tribal high school in Wisconsin and are ranked in the top five percent of their class are guaranteed admission to the UWS or WTCS institution of their choice. Additionally, applicants who are home-schooled are guaranteed admission if they have achieved an ACT examination score in the top five percent of all ACT scores statewide.

The bill requires school boards, charter school operators, and governing bodies of private and tribal schools (collectively, schools) to establish a method of ranking students for the purpose of these guaranteed admissions programs. The bill requires that this ranking method may only take into account any of the following:

- A student's grade point average (GPA).
- A student's ACT examination score.
- The coursework a student has completed.
- Other measures of academic achievement or scholastic merit.

SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 retains the general spirit of the bill, but makes a number of modifications. The substitute amendment:

- Applies to UWS only, rather than UWS and WTCS.
- Requires schools to rank pupils solely on the basis of GPA.
- Requires the rankings at a class's completion of the 11th grade only, rather than at the completion of grades 11 and 12.
- Rankings must identify both the top five percent and the top 10 percent of each class, rather than just the top five percent.
- Requires UW-Madison to admit those students who rank in the top five percent of their class and other UWS institutions to admit those students who rank in the top 10 percent of their class.
- Provides that, in classes where there are more than 15, but less than 20 pupils, the highest ranked
 pupil is considered the top five percent and the second highest ranked pupil is considered the top 10
 percent.

- Provides that home-schooled or virtual private school students must be admitted to UW-Madison if their ACT scores rank in the top two percent of the national ACT rankings or to other UWS institutions if their ACT scores rank in the top 10 percent of the national ACT rankings.
- Provides that students designated as finalists in the National Merit Scholar Program must be admitted to either UW-Madison or any other UWS institution of their choice.

BILL HISTORY

Senator Cabral-Guevara offered Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on January 11, 2024. On January 25, 2024, the Senate Committee on Universities and Revenue recommended adoption of substitute amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 1, and passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 3.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's bill history page.

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