

State of Misconsin 2013 - 2014 LEGISLATURE



2013 ASSEMBLY BILL 926

April 3, 2014 - Introduced by Representatives Genrich, Mason, Barnes, Hesselbein, Goyke, Shankland, Sargent, Ohnstad, Wright and C. Taylor, cosponsored by Senators Harris and Vinehout. Referred to Committee on Colleges and Universities.

AN ACT **relating to:** a study of the viability of permitting students to attend certain institutions of higher education without paying tuition or fees.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System (Board of Regents) establishes tuition and fees for enrollment in the educational programs in the University of Wisconsin System (UW System). Similarly, the Technical College System Board (TCS Board) establishes tuition and fees for enrollment in the programs provided by the technical colleges of this state.

This bill requires the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) to conduct a study of the viability of creating a program that would permit a student who has graduated from a high school in this state or who has been granted a declaration of equivalency of high school graduation or a general educational development certificate by the state superintendent of public instruction to attend a technical college or institution or college campus in the UW System for up to two years without paying any tuition or fees. The bill requires HEAB to report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature, the governor, the Board of Regents, the TCS Board, and the cochairpersons of the Joint Committee on Finance by May 1, 2015. If HEAB determines that the program studied under the bill would be viable, the report must include proposed criteria for the operation of the program and recommendations for legislation for the establishment of the program.

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For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Nonstatutory provisions.

(1) Study of the viability of permitting resident students to attend certain INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITHOUT PAYING TUITION OR FEES. The higher educational aids board shall conduct a study of the viability of creating a program that would permit a student who has graduated from a high school in this state or who has been granted a declaration of equivalency of high school graduation or a general educational development certificate under section 115.29 (4) of the statutes to attend a technical college, institution, as defined in section 36.05 (9) of the statutes, or college campus, as defined in section 36.05 (6m) of the statutes, for up to 2 years without paying any tuition or fees. By May 1, 2015, the higher educational aids board shall report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature in the manner provided in section 13.172 (3) of the statutes and to the governor, the board of regents of the University of Wisconsin System, the technical college system board, and the cochairpersons of the joint committee on finance. If the higher educational aids board determines that the program would be viable, the report shall include proposed criteria for the operation of the program and recommendations for legislation for the establishment of the program.

19 (END)