LEGISLATION

Authors: Representative Dave Heaton and Senator Jerry Petrowski

This bill provides for resident tuition at University of Wisconsin (UW) System institutions for certain members of the Wisconsin National Guard or a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces who would not otherwise be eligible for resident tuition. With certain exceptions, under current law, a person must be a resident of this state for at least 12 months prior to registering at an institution within the UW System in order to be exempt from paying nonresident tuition. This bill provides that a member of the Wisconsin National Guard or a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces, other than an inactive guard member or member of the individual ready reserve, who would otherwise be ineligible for the nonresident tuition exemption is eligible if he or she satisfies the following conditions:

1. He or she resided in this state for six months prior to registering at a UW institution.
2. He or she has been a member of the Wisconsin National Guard or a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces for the entire six-month period.
3. He or she continues to be a member of the guard or reserve unit while enrolled in a UW institution or is honorably discharged from the guard or reserve unit.

The bill limits the exemption from nonresident tuition to 128 credits or eight semesters, whichever is longer.

UW SYSTEM POSITION: SUPPORT

UW System Administration estimates that less than 70 students would qualify for this benefit and that the fiscal impact would be, at the most, $549,000. Despite this cost, almost every institution responded positively when this bill was shared for review.

The authors of the bill also worked closely with UW System in drafting this legislation.

The Board of Regents offers a position in support of this bill.