

SENATE BILL 59

director of the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and operators of residential care centers for children and youth. This bill also prohibits DPI from making reimbursements under the school breakfast program for breakfasts served in the prior school year if the school ceased operations during the prior school year. This prohibition does not apply to reimbursements to a school district.

5. *Licensing fees*

Under the bill, all fees collected by DPI for the certification or licensure of school and public library personnel are credited back to DPI to fund DPI's administrative costs related to licensure. Under current law, 90 percent of the fees are credited back to DPI and the remaining 10 percent are deposited into the general fund.

6. *Digital archiving projects in public libraries*

Under current law, DPI must develop and maintain an online resource, called WISElearn, to provide educational resources for parents, teachers, and pupils; offer online learning opportunities; provide regional technical support centers; provide professional development for teachers; and enable video conferencing. This bill expands WISElearn to include supporting digital archiving projects in public libraries.

HIGHER EDUCATION**1. *Resident undergraduate tuition freeze***

The bill prohibits the Board of Regents of the UW System from charging resident undergraduate academic fees in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years that are more than the fees charged in the 2018-19 academic year.

2. *Nonresident tuition exemption for undocumented individuals*

The bill creates a nonresident tuition exemption for certain technical college and UW System students.

Current law allows the Board of Regents to charge different tuition rates to resident and nonresident students. Current law also includes nonresident tuition exemptions, under which certain nonresident students pay resident tuition rates. This bill creates an additional exemption for an alien who is not a legal permanent resident of the United States and who: a) graduated from a Wisconsin high school or received a declaration of equivalency of high school graduation from Wisconsin; b) was continuously present in Wisconsin for at least three years following the first day of attending a Wisconsin high school or immediately preceding receipt of a declaration of equivalency of high school graduation; and c) enrolls in a UW System institution and provides the institution with an affidavit stating that he or she has filed or will file an application for permanent residency with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as soon as the person is eligible to do so.

The bill also provides that an alien described above is considered a resident of this state for purposes of admission to and payment of fees at a technical college.

3. *Technical college revenue limits*

Under the bill, with certain exceptions, a technical college district board's revenue, defined as the sum of its tax levy for operations and the amount of aid it receives for property tax relief and tax-exempt personal property, in a school year may not exceed its revenue in the previous school year increased by 2 percent, or the

SENATE BILL 59

district's valuation factor, whichever is greater. A district's valuation factor is the percentage change in the district's equalized value due to new construction, less improvements removed. Current law limits the increase to a district's valuation factor.

4. Dual enrollment at UW schools and technical colleges

The bill requires the Board of Regents and technical college district boards to establish policies and implement programs under which students attending high school in this state are admitted, respectively, to the UW System or technical colleges as nondegree students and may enroll in courses offered for credit at a UW System school or technical college. The student must meet the requirements and prerequisites of the course and there must be space available in the course. In establishing the policies and implementing the program, the Board of Regents or technical college district board must consult with DPI and coordinate with the school districts and the governing bodies of private schools where the high school students are enrolled. The Board of Regents and technical college district boards may not charge tuition or fees to any high school student, or to the school district or private school in which the student is enrolled, in connection with the student's participation in the program or the student's enrollment in any course under this program. The UW school or technical college in which the student is enrolled must award postsecondary credit for any course successfully completed. The student must notify the school board of the public high school he or she attends, or the governing body of the private school he or she attends, of the student's intention to enroll in a UW school or technical college and of any course to be taken. If the student will be taking the course for high school credit, the school board or private school governing body must determine whether the course satisfies high school graduation requirements and the number of high school credits to award the student for the course, if any, and notify the student of these determinations. These programs replace the existing Early College Credit Program and dual enrollment program in technical colleges. *See Primary and secondary education.*

5. Student Loan Refinancing Study Committee

The bill creates the Student Loan Refinancing Study Committee consisting of the secretary of financial institutions, the state treasurer, and the executive secretary of HEAB. The committee's purpose is to study the creation and administration of a bonding authority for the refinancing of student loans to ease the student loan debt burden. The committee must submit a report to the governor and the legislature that includes a) recommendations regarding the corporate and legal structure of the refinancing entity, including governance; b) a profile of the loan portfolio, projected costs, estimated staffing needs, underwriting requirements, and other information pertinent to the creation of a financing entity that offers interest rate savings to student loan debtors; and c) an assessment of the feasibility of and options for offering borrower protections similar to those under federal student loan programs.

SENATE BILL 59**6. *Student success and attainment***

The bill requires the Board of Regents to allocate \$20,000,000 of its general program operations appropriation in fiscal year 2019-20 and \$25,000,000 of that appropriation in fiscal year 2020-21 to advance student success and attainment.

7. *Additional funding for UW Colleges*

The bill requires the Board of Regents to allocate at least \$2,500,000 each year from its general program operations appropriation to provide additional funding to the UW Colleges for student support services.

8. *Supplemental talent incentive grants*

The bill allows HEAB to award supplemental grants in a fiscal biennium to students to whom HEAB has awarded talent incentive grants in that biennium. Under current law, HEAB awards talent incentive grants to uniquely needy students enrolled at public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education in this state. Current law limits the amount of a talent incentive grant to \$1,800 for an academic year. The bill allows HEAB to award the supplemental grants from funding that is available after HEAB makes all of the talent incentive grants in a fiscal biennium. Supplemental grants are not subject to the \$1,800 limit.

9. *UW System supplemental pay plans*

The bill allows the Board of Regents and the chancellor of the UW-Madison to provide supplemental pay plans for their employees during the 2019-21 fiscal biennium. The chancellor must submit his or her plan to the Board of Regents for approval. Current law requires the Board of Regents to annually allocate \$26,250,000 of its general program operations funding to UW institutions in accordance with a performance-based funding formula described below. In the 2019-21 fiscal biennium, this bill allows the Board of Regents to allocate all or a portion of that amount to fund the pay plans allowed under the bill, instead of in accordance with that formula. If the Board of Regents allocates a portion, the remainder must be allocated in accordance with the formula.

10. *Rural dentist educational loan repayment*

The bill allows dentists who agree to practice in rural areas under an educational loan repayment assistance program to receive the same amount of assistance as physicians. The program is administered by the Board of Regents. Under current law, dentists and physicians who agree to practice at least 32 clinic hours per week for three years in areas with shortages of dental or primary care professionals may receive up to \$50,000 in assistance under the program. In addition, a physician who agrees to practice for the same duration in a rural area may receive up to \$100,000 in assistance under the program. However, dentists who agree to practice for the same duration in a rural area are eligible for up to \$50,000 in assistance. This bill makes dentists who agree to practice for the same duration in rural areas eligible for up to \$100,000 in assistance.

11. *Nurse educators*

The bill requires the Board of Regents to establish a program that provides a) fellowships to students who enroll in certain advanced nursing degree programs; b) postdoctoral fellowships to recruit faculty for UW System nursing programs; and c)

SENATE BILL 59

educational loan repayment assistance to recruit and retain faculty for UW System nursing programs. In addition, the program must require individuals who receive fellowships or educational assistance to make a three-year commitment to teaching in a UW System nursing program.

12. *Minority teacher loan program*

The bill prohibits HEAB from making a loan under the minority teacher loan program after the date on which the bill becomes law. Under the bill, HEAB continues to administer the repayment and loan forgiveness of all minority teacher loans made on or before the date the bill becomes law.

Under current law, HEAB administers a minority teacher loan program for minority students who meet certain eligibility criteria, including enrollment in a program of study leading to a teacher's license in a teacher shortage field. A minority student is defined as a student who is a Black American, an American Indian, a individual of any race whose ancestors originated in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central America, or South America or whose culture or origin is Spanish, or an individual admitted to the United States after December 31, 1975, who is either a former citizen of Laos, Vietnam, or Cambodia or whose ancestor was or is a citizen of Laos, Vietnam, or Cambodia. Under the program, HEAB may award, to an eligible minority student, a loan of up to \$10,000 annually for up to three years. HEAB must forgive 25 percent of the loan for each school year that the loan recipient a) is employed in the city of Milwaukee as a full-time elementary or secondary school teacher in a high-demand, teacher shortage field; and b) receives a teacher rating of proficient or distinguished.

The bill replaces the minority teacher loan program with a grant program under which DPI awards grants to school districts to recruit minority teachers. *See Primary and secondary education.*

13. *Mid-year changes to the Wisconsin grant formula*

The bill allows HEAB, under certain circumstances, to modify the formula used to award Wisconsin grants without JCF approval.

Under current law, HEAB administers the Wisconsin grant program, which provides grants to resident postsecondary students enrolled at least half time and registered as freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors in UW System schools, technical colleges, private nonprofit colleges, and tribal colleges in this state. Each of these four types of higher education institutions must annually submit to HEAB a proposed formula for awarding Wisconsin grants to students enrolled in these institutions for the next year, and HEAB must then approve, modify, or disapprove these proposed formulas for awarding grants for the next year. If HEAB determines during the year that any formula approved during the prior year needs to be modified in order to expend the entire amount appropriated for grants to students at the applicable type of institution, HEAB must submit a modified formula to JCF and may implement the formula with JCF approval under a 14-day passive review process.

The bill eliminates the JCF submission and passive review process, allowing HEAB to implement modifications to the approved Wisconsin grant formula if HEAB determines during the year that any formula approved during the prior year needs

SENATE BILL 59

to be modified in order to expend the entire amount appropriated for grants to students at the applicable type of institution.

14. Environmental education grants

The bill requires UW-Stevens Point to award grants, funded from the conservation fund, to nonprofit corporations and public agencies for the development, dissemination, and presentation of environmental education programs. To receive a grant, the grant recipient must match at least 25 percent of the amount of the grant, which matching may include in-kind contributions. No more than one-third of the total amount of grants awarded each year may be awarded to state agencies.

15. Distribution of performance-based funding for UW Schools

The bill specifies the UW System institutions eligible to receive performance funding after the UW System's restructuring under the plan approved by the Higher Learning Commission on or about June 28, 2018.

Current law requires the Board of Regents to identify at least four metrics to measure a UW System institution's progress toward meeting each of the following goals: a) growing and ensuring student access; b) improving and excelling at student progress and completion; c) expanding contributions to the workforce; and d) enhancing operational efficiency and effectiveness. An institution includes the extension, but the Board of Regents may specify different metrics for the extension. The Board of Regents must develop a formula for distributing money to UW System institutions based on each institution's performance with respect to these metrics. The Board of Regents must submit this formula to JCF for approval before using the formula to distribute money. The amount of money allocated for distribution under the formula is \$26,250,000 in each fiscal year.

This bill modifies the definition of an institution for purposes of performance funding. Under the bill, an institution eligible to receive performance funding, based on the Board of Regents' metrics and distribution formula, is any of the following:

- a. A four-year UW System school, including any two-year UW System school associated with it as a branch campus under the UW System restructuring plan.
- b. Any operational unit of the UW-Madison assigned former functions of the UW-Extension as a result of the UW System restructuring.
- c. Any operational unit of the UW System administration assigned former functions of the UW-Extension as a result of the UW System restructuring.

16. UW-Extension county-based agriculture positions

The bill requires the Board of Regents to allocate \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2019-20 and \$2,000,000 in each fiscal year thereafter for UW-Extension county-based agriculture positions.

17. Funding for the Paper Science Program at UW-Stevens Point

The bill requires the Board of Regents to fund at least 1.0 FTE position in the Paper Science Program at UW-Stevens Point from an appropriation from the conservation fund, replacing a provision of current law allocating \$78,000 annually from this appropriation for the program.

SENATE BILL 59***18. Handicapped references***

The bill refers to impaired individuals or individuals with disabilities, instead of handicapped individuals, in statutes administered by HEAB and the TCS Board.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AGENCIES***1. Instructional material related to public radio and television programs***

This bill allows the Educational Communications Board to procure or publish instructional material related to state educational radio and television network programs and to impose a reasonable charge for providing this material.

ELECTIONS***1. Nonpartisan redistricting***

This bill creates a new procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional redistricting plans. The bill directs the LRB to draw redistricting plans based upon standards specified in the bill and establishes a Redistricting Advisory Commission to oversee the LRB's work in drawing redistricting plans and to perform certain tasks in the redistricting process. The commission consists of five members. The speaker and minority leader of the assembly and the majority and minority leaders of the senate must each appoint one person to serve on the commission. The four appointed commissioners then select a fifth commissioner to serve as chairperson. The bill prohibits all of the following individuals from being commission members: individuals who are not eligible electors of this state at the time of the appointment, individuals who hold partisan public office or political party office, and individuals who are a relative of or are employed by a member of the legislature or of Congress or are employed directly by the legislature or Congress.

If requested to do so by the LRB, the commission must provide direction to the LRB concerning any decision the LRB must make in preparing a redistricting plan. The bill permits the commission to establish policies limiting the information that the LRB may provide to persons outside of LRB staff concerning any redistricting plan. However, the bill also provides that any draft maps, along with the data sets used to create them, that the LRB produces in the course of preparing a redistricting plan must be open to the public and made available on the Internet site of the LRB as soon as they are produced. The bill further provides that in preparing a redistricting plan, the LRB must test the efficiency gap and competitiveness of each district and make the test results available to the public, including on its Internet site. The efficiency gap is, generally, a method that purports to test the fairness of a redistricting plan based on measuring the number of votes cast for a candidate beyond the number needed to be elected.

In preparing the plan, the LRB must be strictly nonpartisan. No district may be drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party, incumbent legislator or member of Congress, or other person or group, or, except to the extent necessary to meet the requirements of the Voting Rights Act, for the purpose of augmenting or diluting the voting strength of a language or racial minority group. The LRB may not use residence addresses of incumbent legislators or members of Congress, political affiliations of registered voters, previous election results, or, except as