



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 470
[2005 Senate Bill 436]

**School-Provided Benefits for
Students Returning From Military
Service**

2005 Wisconsin Act 470 expands benefits that the schools described below must provide to students returning from military service (state active duty or active service with the U.S. Armed Forces), to add reenrollment and registration priority benefits. The Act also removes the requirement for such benefits that the student be a resident of Wisconsin when withdrawing from school for military service.

Under prior law, if a student who was a resident of Wisconsin and a member of a National Guard or reserve unit of the U.S. Armed Forces withdrew from a University of Wisconsin (UW) System or Technical College System school after September 11, 2001, because the student was called into military service for at least 30 days, the college or university was required at the student's request to reimburse the student all tuition and fees paid for the courses from which the student had to withdraw (a UW System school must also pay a prorated portion of room and board payments). In addition, such a school, as well as a private nonprofit college or university located in Wisconsin, was required to grant the request of such a student for an incomplete in the courses, and the opportunity to complete the courses within six months after leaving military service without paying additional tuition or fees.

2005 Wisconsin Act 470 deletes the requirement for such benefits that the student be a resident of Wisconsin when withdrawing from school to enter military service. Also under the Act, in addition to providing the above-described benefits required under prior law, each of the schools referred to above must reenroll the student beginning in the semester in which the student is discharged, demobilized, or deactivated from active duty or the next succeeding semester, whichever the student prefers. The Act also requires the school to give the student the same priority in registering for courses that the student would have had if he or she had registered for courses at the beginning of the registration period.

Effective Date: The Act takes effect on June 13, 2006.

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MO:rv

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.