

1       **AN ACT** *to repeal* 20.235 (1) (fy) and 39.41; and *to amend* 39.435 (7) (a) 1. of the  
 2           statutes; **relating to:** the Wisconsin academic excellence scholarship program and  
 3           the Wisconsin higher education grant, and making appropriations.

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

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE:** This draft was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council’s Special Committee on Review of Higher Education Financial Aid Programs.

The academic excellence scholarship (AES) program provides scholarships to the seniors with the highest grade point average (GPA) from each high school in Wisconsin that enroll in a public or private institution of higher education in the state. Generally, the number of students that may receive these scholarships from each high school is based on the number of students in each respective high school.

If a scholar under this program declines a scholarship, the high school must designate as alternate scholars any seniors with the same GPA as the scholar. If there is no other student with the same GPA, the school must designate a scholar from any of the remaining seniors with the next highest GPA of not less than 3.8.

If a student is awarded a scholarship and is enrolled full-time in a participating institution (University of Wisconsin (UW) System, Wisconsin Technical College System, or independent institution in Wisconsin of higher education), and maintains a GPA of at least 3.000, the student is eligible for a scholarship in the subsequent year. If a student does not enroll in a participating institution of higher education in the subsequent year, the student is eligible for the scholarship in the 2nd year following the year in which they previously received the scholarship.

The value of the AES is currently \$2,250 per year, not to exceed 4 years. Half of this amount is funded by the state, and the other half is matched by the institution of higher education.

This draft eliminates the AES program and increases the appropriation for the Wisconsin higher education grant for UW System students

(WHEG-UW) by an amount equal to the 2010-11 appropriation for the AES program.

1       **SECTION 1.** 20.235 (1) (fy) of the statutes is repealed.

2       **SECTION 2.** 39.41 of the statutes is repealed.

**COMMENT:** This SECTION would repeal the AES for the 2011-12 academic year. Under s. 39.41, stats., “academic year” means the year of enrollment in an institution of higher education, meaning this draft would apply to high school seniors graduating at the end of the 2010-11 academic year. The committee may wish to specify a different date for the initial applicability of the draft.

3       **SECTION 3.** 39.435 (7) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

4           39.435 (7) (a) 1. For purposes of calculating the amount to be appropriated under s.  
5       20.235 (1) (fe) for fiscal year 2011-12, “base amount” means the amount shown in the  
6       schedule under s. 20.005 for that appropriation for fiscal year 2010-11, plus \$3,190,000.

**NOTE:** This SECTION adds an amount equal to the 2010-11 appropriation for the AES (\$3,190,000) to the “base amount” used to calculate the appropriation for WHEG-UW in fiscal year 2011-12.

**COMMENT:** This draft incorporates the former AES funding into the “base amount” used to calculate the WHEG-UW appropriation in fiscal year 2011-12. By operation of s. 39.435, stats., the portion of the “base amount” attributable to the former AES funding will be adjusted in future fiscal years in the same manner as other amounts contained in the “base amount” for the WHEG-UW appropriation.

As described in the previous comment, the draft would first apply to the 2011-12 academic year. If the committee chooses to modify the initial applicability of the draft, it may also wish to modify the fiscal year in which former AES funding would be allocated to the appropriation for WHEG-UW.

7       **SECTION 4. Effective date.**

8           (1) This act takes effect on the 2nd day after publication of the 2011-13 biennial budget  
9       act.

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(END)