

AH:ksm;

12/13/2010

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 39.435 (2) of the statutes; **relating to:** enrollment requirements for
 2 recipients of talent incentive program grants.

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

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

Under current law, the higher education aids board (HEAB) awards talent incentive program grants, not to exceed \$1,800 per student during a given academic year, to uniquely needy students attending colleges and universities in the state. First–time grant recipients are chosen as freshmen students by school financial aid officers or by counselors of the Wisconsin educational opportunities program. The grants may be awarded for no more than 10 consecutive semesters.

Under current HEAB administrative rules, students are required to maintain continuous enrollment from semester to semester, or quarter to quarter, in order to remain eligible to receive grants under the subsection.

The draft amends s. 39.435 (2), stats., to clarify that recipients of talent incentive program grants need not maintain continuous enrollment in their higher education institutions. Under the draft, recipients would be eligible to receive the grants for up to 10 semesters during a 5–year period.

3 **SECTION 1.** 39.435 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 39.435 (2) The board shall award talent incentive grants to uniquely needy students
 5 enrolled at least half–time as first–time freshmen at public and private nonprofit institutions
 6 located in this state and to sophomores, juniors and seniors who received such grants as
 7 freshmen. No grant under this subsection may exceed \$1,800 for any academic year. The
 8 board may not award a grant to the same student for more than 10 consecutive semesters or
 9 their equivalent, and all grants awarded to an individual student must be awarded within 5

1 years of the initial grant. A student need not maintain continuous enrollment at his or her
2 institution to receive grants under this subsection. The board shall promulgate rules
3 establishing eligibility criteria for grants under this subsection.

COMMENT: The draft requires that all talent incentive program grants awarded to a given student be awarded within a 5-year time frame. Because 10 semesters of grant funding are authorized under current law, the 5-year limitation may mean that fewer than the full 10 semesters of grant funding will be available to a student who takes a year off from full-time enrollment.

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(END)