

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 20.255 (2) (t), 118.55 (3) (am), (7m) (a) and (b), and (7r) (ac) and
 2 121.91 (4) (r) of the statutes; **relating to:** the youth options program and making an
 3 appropriation.

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 Improving Educational Opportunities in High School.

Under the Youth Options program, any pupil enrolled in the 11th or 12th grade who satisfies certain requirements may attend a post–secondary institution in Wisconsin for the purpose of taking a course or courses for high school and post–secondary credit. For purposes of the program, post–secondary institutions are any Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) campus, University of Wisconsin (UW) System institution, Wisconsin tribally controlled college, or Wisconsin private, nonprofit institution of higher education.

In order to attend the UW, a tribally controlled college, or a private college, a pupil must apply to the university or college in the school semester prior to the one in which the student plans to take the post–secondary course. The pupil must also notify the school board of the pupil’s intention to enroll in a post–secondary institution, the titles of the courses in which the pupil intends to enroll, the number of credits of each course, and whether the pupil will be taking the course for high school or post–secondary credit. A university or college may admit a pupil under the youth options program only if space is available.

In order to attend a technical college, in addition to applying to the technical college and notifying the school board, a pupil must have completed the 10th grade, be in good academic standing, and not qualify as a child at risk. The technical college district board must admit the pupil if he or she meets the requirements and prerequisites of the course or courses for which he or she applied. However, the district board may admit a pupil to a course only if there is space available after admitting to the course all individuals applying for the course who are not applying under the program. In addition, the district board may reject an

application from a pupil who has a record of disciplinary problems, as determined by the district board.

If the pupil wants to take a course for high school and post-secondary credit, the school board must determine whether the course is comparable to a course offered in the school district, whether the course satisfies any of the high school graduation requirements, and the number of high school credits to award the pupil for the course, if any. The school board must pay for any course taken at a post-secondary institution or technical college that is taken for high school credit and that is not comparable to a course offered in the school district.

This bill draft requires that a pupil's notification to the school board of the pupil's intention to enroll in a post-secondary institution or technical college must include a description of how the courses in which the pupil intends to enroll relate to the pupil's academic and career plan. This requirement would apply beginning in the 2015-16 school year because that is when academic and career plans may be required under WLC: 0054/1. The section of the draft creating these provisions is SECTION 3.

The bill draft creates 2 methods of funding the Youth Options program. The first option creates a new categorical aid appropriation to fund the program. Beginning in 2013-14, school boards are required to submit cost data to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) regarding the number of pupils in the district who took a youth options course in the 2012-13 school year and how much the district paid for tuition, fees, books and other necessary materials for those pupils. Based on the school district cost data, DPI is directed to request funding in 2014-15 in order make state aid payments to school districts for the youth options program. The sections of the draft creating this option are SECTIONS 1, 2, 3, and 6.

The second funding option provides an exemption to the current revenue limits applicable to school districts. Current statutory revenue limits restrict the annual increase in a school district's per pupil revenue derived from general school aid, the property tax levy, and computer aid. Current law authorizes increases in the revenue limit for school districts for certain purposes, including school safety expenditures, school nurse compensation costs, and energy efficiency measures. This bill draft authorizes an increase in the school revenue limit for school districts to pay for the youth options program. In addition, the bill draft provides that any additional revenue received by a school district to pay for the youth options program must not be included in the base budget for determining the school district's limit under the statutes for the following year. The revenue limit adjustment would first apply to the calculation

of a school district’s revenue limit for the 2014–15 school year. The sections of the draft creating his option are SECTIONS 4 and 5.

1 **SECTION 1.** 20.255 (2) (t) of the statutes is created to read:

2 20.255 (2) (t) *Youth options program.* The amounts in the schedule for the payment of
 3 state aid to school districts to reimburse school districts for the costs of pupils attending an
 4 institution of higher education or technical college under s. 118.55.

5 **SECTION 2.** 20.255 (2) (t) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert the following
 6 amounts for the purposes indicated:

		2013–14	2014–15
7			
8	20.255		
9	(2) AID FOR LOCAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING		
10	(t) Youth options program	GPR–A	–0– –0–

NOTE: This SECTION creates an appropriation schedule entry for the payment of state aid to school districts for the youth options program.

COMMENT: This funding provision is an alternative to the funding provision contained in SECTIONS 4 and 5.

11 **SECTION 3.** 118.55 (3) (am), (7m) (a) and (b), and (7r) (ac) of the statutes are created
 12 to read:

13 118.55 (3) (am) Beginning in the 2015–16 school year, the notice to the school board
 14 under par. (a) shall include a description of how the course in which the pupil intends to enroll
 15 at an institution of higher education under this section relates to the pupil’s academic and
 16 career plan under s. 118.36.

NOTE: This SECTION requires that the notice a pupil submits to a school board of the pupil’s intention to enroll in a post–secondary institution must include a description of how the course the pupil intends to take relates to the pupil’s academic and career plan. This requirement becomes effective in the 2015–16 school year.

COMMENT: The requirement in this SECTION becomes effective in the 2015–16 school year because that is the school year when academic and career plans may be required under WLC: 0054/1. If the committee chooses not to require academic and career plans under WLC: 0054/1, the committee might consider alternatives regarding how to address which courses pupils may take under the youth options program.

1 **(7m)** (a) Beginning in the 2013–14 school year, and every year thereafter, a school
2 board shall submit a written report to the department that includes the number of pupils in the
3 school district enrolled in a youth options course in the preceding school year at an institution
4 of higher education or a technical college, and the cost of tuition, course fees, books, and any
5 other necessary materials for those pupils. A school board shall submit the report for the
6 preceding school year no later than June 30 of each year.

7 (b) Beginning in the 2014–15 school year, state aid to school districts for the program
8 shall be paid from the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (t). A school board shall apply to the
9 department for reimbursement of the costs of pupils participating in the program in each
10 semester. The department shall determine the reimbursement amount and shall pay the
11 amount from the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (t). If the funds in the appropriation under
12 s. 20.255 (2) (t) are insufficient to pay all eligible school boards, the department shall prorate
13 the payments.

NOTE: This SECTION requires school boards to compile a written report including the number of pupils in the school district enrolled in a youth options course in the preceding school year at an institution of higher education or a technical college, and the cost of tuition, course fees, books, and any other necessary materials for those pupils. School boards must begin compiling the information beginning in the 2013–14 school year and submit the first report to DPI by June 30, 2014.

This SECTION also requires that state aid to school districts for the youth options program will be paid beginning in the 2014–15 school year. A school board must apply to the department for reimbursement of the costs of pupils participating in the program in each semester. If the amount in the appropriation is insufficient to pay all eligible school

boards, the state superintendent is required to prorate the payments among the districts.

COMMENT: The intent of this provision is to determine the amount of categorical aid that should be appropriated for the youth options program. If the committee opts to recommend the funding mechanism in SECTION 4, this provision or the second part of this provision should be deleted.

1 **(7r)** (ac) Beginning in the 2015–16 school year, the notice to the school board under
2 par. (a) 3. shall include a description of how the course in which the pupil intends to enroll at
3 a technical college relates to the pupil’s academic and career plan under s. 118.36.

NOTE: This SECTION requires that the notice a pupil submits to a school board of the pupil’s intention to attend a technical college must include a description of how the course the pupil intends to take relates to the pupil’s academic and career plan. This requirement becomes effective in the 2015–16 school year.

4 **SECTION 4.** 121.91 (4) (r) of the statutes is created to read:

5 121.91 **(4)** (r) 1. If a school board adopts a resolution to do so, the limit otherwise
6 applicable to a school district under sub. (2m) in any school year is increased by the amount
7 [spent by the school district in the previous school year] [equal to _____] to pay for pupils
8 in the program under s. 118.55.

9 2. Any additional revenue received by a school district under this paragraph shall not
10 be included in the base for determining the school district’s limit under sub. (2m) for the
11 following school year.

NOTE: This SECTION authorizes an increase in the school revenue limit for school districts to pay for the youth options program. Any additional revenue received by a school district to pay for the youth options program must not be included in the base budget for determining the school district’s limit under the statutes for the following year. The revenue limit adjustment would first apply to the calculation of a school district’s revenue limit for the 2014–15 school year.

COMMENT: By how much should a school district be able to increase the district’s revenue limit? Options include the amount the school district

spent in the previous school year for youth options or an amount equal to a specified dollar amount.

1 **SECTION 5. Initial applicability; public instruction.**

2 (1) Youth options program; revenue limit adjustment. The creation of s. 121.91 (4r) of
3 the statutes first applies to the calculation of a school district's revenue limit for the 2014-15
4 school year.

NOTE: This SECTION authorizes a school district to increase the school district's revenue limit beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

COMMENT: The funding mechanism in SECTIONS 4 and 5 is an alternative to the funding provisions contained in SECTIONS 1, 2, and 3.

5 **SECTION 6. Nonstatutory provisions; Public Instruction.**

6 (1) The department of public instruction shall submit a request to the joint committee
7 on finance for funds to be credited to the appropriation account under s. 20.255 (2) (t) for fiscal
8 year 2014-15 to provide payments to school districts for the youth options program under s.
9 118.55. The amount of funding requested shall be based upon the data received from school
10 boards in 2013-14 under s. 118.55 (7m) (a) as created by this act.

NOTE: This section requires DPI to request funding for the youth options program for fiscal year 2014-15 from the Joint Committee on Finance. The requested amount must be based on the data compiled by school boards and submitted to DPI in 2013-14.

COMMENT: This provision will be included only if the committee recommends a categorical aids appropriation.

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(END)