



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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February 20, 2024
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ASSEMBLY CLEARS BILL REMOVING BARRIER TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VETERANS

Proposal waiving UW System, tech college application fees would bolster state's skilled workforce

MADISON... Veterans and members of the U.S. armed forces will have greater access to Wisconsin's public higher education institutions - and incentive to keep their skills in the state - under legislation waiving their application fees, which cleared the State Assembly today in a 96-2 vote.

State Rep. James Edming (R-Glen Flora) and state Sen. André Jacque (R-De Pere), who introduced the bipartisan measure, said removing barriers to higher education for veterans is another recruiting tool that gives Wisconsin a veteran-friendly reputation and helps the state compete for these trained workers.

"As our brave men and women in uniform transition from the military back to civilian life, many look to continue their education at a Wisconsin technical college or university," said Rep. Edming. "While the cost of an application fee may not seem like a big deal, for a veteran struggling financially it could be what keeps them from applying to the school they really want to attend or from applying at all."

"In addition to being a sign of gratitude for their service, waiving the application fee will help bolster the recruitment of veterans to our state's colleges and universities," Sen. Jacque said. "By encouraging our veterans to attend college in Wisconsin, it increases the likelihood that they stay in our state after they complete their education and help fill our state's workforce needs."

This proposal would apply to University of Wisconsin System and Wisconsin Technical College System schools for all veterans and service members who apply to any associate or bachelor's degree program, certificate or technical diploma.

"After finishing their education, students often remain in the state where they completed their education," Sen. Jacque said. "This bill is another way to help attract qualified, dedicated candidates to the thousands of jobs Wisconsin employers have available."

"Employers across our state are struggling to meet their workforce needs," said Rep. Edming. "By making it easier for our veterans to further their education in Wisconsin we can hopefully encourage them to stay here after graduation and become part of our state's workforce."

The measure ([Assembly Bill 91](#)) now heads to the Senate and must be signed by the Governor to become law.

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