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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Senate Bill 744 becomes Wisconsin Act 117

This past week, Senate Bill 744 (SB 744) authored by Senator Patrick Testin (R – 24) and Representative Cindi Duchow (R – 99), was signed into law as Wisconsin Act 117.

Wisconsin Act 117 would provide direct tuition payments from the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) for National Guard members instead of the current system for tuition payments. The current system allows the DMA to reimburse tuition fees as long as specified requirements are met. This has been a wonderful program to honor our men and women who choose to give their service to this wonderful country but the program needed to be upgraded.

The old system could cause a couple of administrative issues for universities and guard members alike. Guard members would have to pay out-of-pocket initially or go through the arduous process of taking out school. On top of this issue, the old program would require the university that member attends to repay certain forms of federal aid.

While the intention of this reimbursement system was good and necessary, it needed to be amended and fixed to streamline the process for all parties involved. This bill was widely supported by both sides of the aisle and was a piece of common sense legislation. I was honored to vote for this on the floor and I want to commend the authors of this bill on their legislative idea.

Wisconsin Act 117 will have an incredibly positive affect on our state, its guard members, and its universities.

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns at Rep.Pronschinske@legis.wi.gov.

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