TO: All Legislators
FROM: Representatives Murphy
Senator Jacque
DATE:
RE: Co-Sponsorship of LRB 3098/1, the Fair Future Tuition Act, relating to undergraduate resident tuition at UW System institutions

DEADLINE:

This bill is part of the Open and Accessible UW Package

Governor Evers and the legislature have committed to extending the UW resident undergraduate tuition freeze in the next state budget; however, once that non-statutory freeze expires, there will be no limits in place on how much tuition may increase.

Our bill does not end the freeze; instead, it puts protections in place for students and their families if the freeze is ended in the future.

In order to prevent tuition from skyrocketing after the freeze, and give UW System the ability to plan future budgets, we must implement a common sense law placing controls on how tuition will be set in the future.

Under the bill:

- If the non-statutory freeze expires, the Board of Regents may increase tuition for all students up to the rate of Consumer Price Index (CPI) the first year after the freeze.
- Once a student begins at a campus, tuition at that campus is frozen for four years for that student.
- Each year, the Board of Regents may increase tuition for incoming students up to CPI.
- If a student transfers or remains at an institution for more than four years, they would pay the tuition rate for incoming students that year.

![Post-1967 Freeze Tuition Increases](image)
If you would like to co-sponsor LRB-3098/1, please respond to this email or call Rep. Murphy’s office at 266-7500 before 5:00 p.m. on _____. All co-sponsors will be added to the corresponding companion bill unless otherwise noted.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Beginning in the 2021-22 academic year, this bill prohibits the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System from increasing resident undergraduate tuition for students in two-year and four-year institutions by more than the increase in the consumer price index for the previous year. The bill defines CPI as the consumer price index for all urban consumers, U.S. city average, as determined by the U.S. department of labor. Also, for purposes of the bill, “resident undergraduate tuition” is defined to include any differential tuition charged to a resident undergraduate.

The bill also freezes the amount of resident undergraduate tuition charged to an individual student as follows. First, for a student who first enrolls in an institution in the 2021-22 academic year or thereafter, the amount of resident undergraduate tuition charged in the first year of enrollment is subject to the prohibition described above. In addition, the amount of resident undergraduate tuition charged to the student must remain constant while the student continues his or her enrollment in the institution, or for four consecutive academic years, whichever is less. The foregoing applies regardless of whether the student was previously enrolled in another UW institution or a non-UW institution of higher education.

Second, for a student who continues his or her enrollment in a UW institution in the 2021-22 academic year, the amount of resident tuition charged to the student for the 2021-22 academic year is subject to the prohibition described above. In addition, the amount of resident undergraduate tuition charged to the student must remain constant while the student continues his or her enrollment in the institution, or through the 2024-25 academic year, whichever is less.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.