

1991 SENATE BILL 360

October 30, 1991 - Introduced by Senators LORMAN, CZARNEZKI, PETAK, HUELSMAN, BARRETT, BUETTNER, WEEDEN, RUDE and CHVALA; cosponsored by Representatives ROHAN, MUSSER, TURBA, VRAKAS, BOLLE, MEDINGER, LORGE, HAHN, STOWER, HAMILTON, DARLING, HUBER, RADTKE, BALDUS, SILBAUGH, BOCK, GROBSCHMIDT, CLARENBACH and MOORE. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT to create 38.22 (6) (d) of the statutes, relating to specifying
2 that certain refugees are Wisconsin residents for entrance to and
3 tuition at vocational, technical and adult education schools.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill specifies that for the purposes of determining eligibility to attend a vocational, technical and adult education (VTAE) school and of determining tuition at a VTAE school, persons who are refugees under federal law, who moved to Wisconsin immediately upon arrival in the United States and who have resided in Wisconsin continuously since then are to be considered state residents if they demonstrate an intent to establish and maintain a permanent home in Wisconsin.

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

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

4 SECTION 1. 38.22 (6) (d) of the statutes is created to read:
5 38.22 (6) (d) Any person who is a refugee, as defined under 8 USC
6 1101 (a) (42), who moved to this state immediately upon arrival in the
7 United States and who has resided in this state continuously since then,
8 if he or she demonstrates an intent to establish and maintain a permanent
9 home in Wisconsin.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

1991 Senate Bill 360

Date of enactment: April 14, 1992
Date of publication*: April 28, 1992

1991 Wisconsin Act 184

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state immediately upon arrival in the United States and who has resided in this state continuously since then, if he or she demonstrates an intent to establish and maintain a permanent home in Wisconsin.

* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES 1989-90: **Effective date of acts.** "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication as designated" by the secretary of state [the date of publication may not be more than 10 working days after the date of enactment].

BARBARA K. LORMAN

Wisconsin State Senator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 14, 1992

PRESS RELEASE BY SENATOR BARBARA LORMAN

GOVERNOR SIGNS LORMAN'S VTAE RESIDENCY BILL

Governor Tommy Thompson today signed a bill authored by Senator Barbara Lorman (R-Fort Atkinson). The bill will allow anyone who is a legal refugee, and resides in Wisconsin, to be considered a resident of Wisconsin for tuition purposes at Wisconsin Vocational, Technical and Adult Education (VTAE) schools, just as they already are at the University.

Lorman said the bill was introduced when she learned of the tuition problem faced by a group of Soviet refugees who recently settled in the Milwaukee area. "These refugees wanted to pursue careers that require classes at a VTAE school" said Lorman. She continued, "However, due to their residency status and limited finances, attending school appeared to be out of reach."

In state tuition at a VTAE school is \$38.90 per credit. Out-of-state tuition is \$307.40 per credit. A difference of \$268.50 per credit.

According to Lorman, under current law, any person who is a refugee is entitled to pay resident tuition and fees to any institution in the University of Wisconsin System. To qualify, the refugee must have moved to Wisconsin immediately upon arrival in the United States and have continually resided in this state.

"My bill simply expanded the entitlement to VTAE's within Wisconsin," Lorman said. She continued, "Working with this particular group of refugees, I found that they were being penalized for trying to advance their careers by a contradictory state policy. Our public policy has always been to encourage our citizens to continue their education. Now these new Wisconsinites can get in the fast track to higher paying jobs. Everyone wins as a result."

In 1989 there were a total of 1,843 refugees settling in Wisconsin and 1,215 in 1990. Of, these, 159 were 18-24 years old in 1990 and 238 were in this age group in 1989. The majority of these refugees came from Laos. There were 293 refugees from the Soviet Union in 1989 and 237 in 1990.

Michael Blumenfeld, Legislative Consultant for the Wisconsin Jewish Conference said, "These refugees are fleeing their countries for freedom and new opportunities that Wisconsin offers. Though the fiscal estimate is zero, this bill represents a major investment in these extraordinary people."