



---

---

## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

---

---

**2013 Wisconsin Act 152**  
[2013 Senate Bill 643]

**County Aid for  
Town Bridges and Culverts**

This legislation was introduced by the JLC Law Revision Committee under s. 13.83 (1) (c) 1. and 5., Stats., as a result of the Legislative Reference Bureau's case and opinion review under s. 13.92 (2) (j), Stats.

2013 Wisconsin Act 152 relates to county aid for town bridges and culverts. A town that has voted to construct or repair a bridge or culvert on a highway maintained by the town may petition the county in which the town is located for shared funding of the project. With certain exceptions, upon an adequate petition, the county must pay one-half of the cost of construction or repair. The Wisconsin Supreme Court in *Town of Madison v. County of Dane*, 311 Wis. 2d 402 (2008), determined that this requirement applies only to "highways in existence at the time of a bridge's construction." Under this holding, counties are required to share costs only for bridges or culverts that are either located on a town highway that is currently in existence or will be connected to a town highway by the completion of the construction. Act 152 clarifies the language of the statute to confirm the holding of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

**Effective date:** March 29, 2014.

**Prepared by:** Michael Queensland, Staff Attorney

April 1, 2014

MQ:jb;ksm

---

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.