



2019 SENATE BILL 459

September 27, 2019 - Introduced by Senators SCHACHTNER, OLSEN, BEWLEY, CARPENTER, JOHNSON, MILLER and L. TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives STUBBS, KITCHENS, ANDERSON, BOWEN, MURSAU, NEYLON, OHNSTAD, POPE, SINICKI, SPREITZER, SUBECK, TUSLER, ZAMARRIPA, BROSTOFF and STUCK. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection.

1 **AN ACT to create** 20.255 (2) (dq) and 115.453 of the statutes; **relating to:** a
2 science competition participation grant pilot program and making an
3 appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Public Instruction to award grants to teams of pupils in the 6th through 12th grades for the purpose of participating in science competitions. As a condition of receiving a grant, a team of pupils must demonstrate that it will provide funds to match the grant amount. DPI may not award a grant for this purpose in amount that exceeds \$5,000. Under the bill, these grants are available until June 30, 2021.

For further information see the *state* 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.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert
5 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

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SECTION 1

2019-20

2020-21

1 **20.255 Public Instruction, Department of**

2 (2) AIDS FOR LOCAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

3 (dq) Science competition participation

4 grants GPR A -0- 250,000

5 **SECTION 2.** 20.255 (2) (dq) of the statutes is created to read:

6 20.255 (2) (dq) *Science competition participation grants.* The amounts in the
7 schedule for grants to science competition teams under s. 115.453. No moneys may
8 be encumbered from this appropriation after June 30, 2021.

9 **SECTION 3.** 115.453 of the statutes is created to read:

10 **115.453 Science competition participation grant pilot program. (1)** In
11 this section:

12 (a) "Allowable expenses" includes fees, kits, and supplies required to
13 participate in a science competition, travel expenses to a science competition for
14 eligible team members, and a stipend for the mentor of an eligible team.

15 (b) "Eligible team" means a science competition team consisting of pupils in any
16 of the grades 6 through 12 and at least one mentor.

17 (c) "Science competition" means a competition that requires participating
18 teams to compete in a challenge of science, technology, engineering, and math and
19 that is sponsored by a nonstock, nonprofit corporation, described under section 501

20 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from taxation under section 501 (a)
21 of the Internal Revenue Code, having among its organizational purposes improving
22 the quality of elementary and secondary science education, increasing male, female,

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1 and minority interest in science, creating a technologically-literate workforce, and
2 providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both pupils and teachers.

3 (2) (a) By no later than April 1, 2020, the department shall notify school boards,
4 operators of charter schools under s. 118.40 (2r) and (2x), governing bodies of private
5 schools, and administrators of home-based private educational programs that
6 applications for grants under this section will be accepted from eligible teams
7 through a date set forth in the notice. As a condition of receiving a grant under this
8 section, an eligible team shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department that
9 the eligible team will provide matching funds in an amount equal to the amount
10 awarded under this section.

11 (b) From the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (dq), the department shall award
12 a grant of up to \$5,000 to each eligible team selected from the applicants under par.

13 (a). Grant funds awarded under this section may be applied only towards allowable
14 expenses.

15 (3) The department shall publish on its Internet site a list of grant recipients
16 and submit to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature under s. 13.172
17 (3) a report on the program under this section.

SECTION 4. Effective date.

18 (1) This act takes effect on the day after publication, or on the 2nd day after
19 publication of the 2019 biennial budget act, whichever is later.
20

21 (END)