



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2007 Assembly Bill 49

Assembly Amendment 1

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Assembly Bill 49 relates to fees charged to qualified lake associations for permits to control aquatic plants. Under the current statutes, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is directed to establish a program related to aquatic plants, that includes provisions regarding the control of invasive species. Under the statute, a person must obtain a permit from DNR to remove aquatic plants from the navigable waters of the state, either manually or by use of chemicals. The statute also authorizes DNR, by rule, to establish fees for aquatic plant management permits.

Assembly Bill 49 exempts a qualified lake association, as defined in the statutes (see s. 281.68 (3m) (a)), from the permit fees established by DNR rule. A qualified lake association is not exempted by the bill from the requirement to obtain a permit.

Assembly Amendment 1 repeals two statutes related to nonprofit conservation organizations. The amendment repeals s. 23.0955, Stats., under which the DNR has, since 1997, been authorized to provide an annual grant to a Wisconsin-based nonstock, nonprofit corporation that assists and acts as an umbrella organization for land trusts throughout the state. Since 1997, DNR has provided this annual grant to Gathering Waters, Inc., and the current amount of the grant is \$150,000, appropriated from the Conservation Fund. The amendment also repeals s. 23.0956, Stats., under which the DNR is authorized to provide an annual grant of \$85,000 from the Conservation Fund to a nonstock, nonprofit corporation that uses the grant to protect and enhance the state's natural resources. Each year the grant has been awarded to the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

The amendment also repeals the appropriation for the two grants, which is an aggregate amount of \$235,000 per year from the Conservation Fund. The remainder of the amendment makes necessary changes in cross-references to the definition of "nonprofit conservation organization."

Legislative History

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Friske. The Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, on May 30, 2007, recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 by a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 6; and passage, as amended, by the same vote.

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