



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2015 Wisconsin Act 207**  
[2015 Senate Bill 318]

**State Aid to Local Fairs and  
Regulation of Horse Racing**

2015 Wisconsin Act 207 modifies and repeals provisions of Wisconsin law relating to state aid to local fairs, and it repeals provisions relating to certain horse races conducted by a county or an agricultural society.

### STATE AID TO LOCAL FAIRS

The Act authorizes an entity operating a fair to impose restrictions on the total number of fairs at which an exhibitor may participate in order to be eligible for premium awards for exhibits at a fair.

The Act changes the deadline for a county board, agricultural society, association, or board claiming state aid to furnish the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) with a statement of receipts and disbursements, attendance, and other information from December 31 of the year in which a fair is held to January 31 of the year after the year in which the fair is held.

The Act **repeals** provisions of Wisconsin law that:

- Limit the amount of a fee that a board, fair association, society, or other agency conducting an agricultural fair or exhibition may charge for entering an exhibit.
- Require an agricultural society, association, or board to install an accounting system approved by DATCP in order to receive state aid.
- Require an agricultural society, association, or board that receives state aid for a fair to publish a financial statement that shows the financial condition of the organization before and after the fair.

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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>.

- Require the Department of Administration to audit certain financial reports submitted to DATCP by a county board, agricultural society, association, or board claiming state aid.
- Authorize DATCP, the principal officers of the Northern Wisconsin state fair, and the principal officers of an industrial society to have jurisdiction and control of exhibition grounds and adjacent areas during exhibitions.

## **HORSE RACING**

The Act **repeals** provisions of Wisconsin law that:

- Provide state aid to an eligible county, or organized agricultural society, association, or board to cover a portion of the cost of prizes awarded in certain races conducted by a county or an agricultural society.
- Specify criteria for a horse to be eligible to enter or start in certain races.
- Specify the number of entries and starters for certain races.
- Limit the amount of entrance fees that may be charged for entering a horse in certain races.
- Authorize an agricultural society to bring suit against a person who fails to pay a required entrance fee.
- Prohibit a person from misrepresenting or withholding certain information about a horse entered in certain races.
- Require a society, association, or board claiming state aid to file with DATCP a statement showing a summary of the results of each colt event and indicating that each event was conducted in accordance with applicable laws.

*Effective date:* March 3, 2016, except that the provisions of the Act that repeal the requirement for a society, association, or board claiming state aid to file a statement with DATCP first apply to a statement required to be filed in 2015.

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