



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2017 Assembly Bill 577

**Assembly
Amendment 2**

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2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 577

2017 Assembly Bill 577 (“the bill”) appropriates a total of \$500,000 to create a grant, to be awarded by the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to a qualifying food bank association for the purpose of promoting donation of excess or unmarketable farm and food products to food banks. A grant recipient will receive \$1 for every \$1 of private funds raised for this purpose, up to \$250,000 in a given fiscal year. The funds may be used for approved expenses and must be expended or encumbered by June 30, 2022.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2

Assembly Amendment 2 (“the amendment”) expands the types of organizations that are eligible to receive the grant, and requires DATCP to seek requests for proposals from eligible organizations prior to awarding the grant. Under the bill, the grant must be awarded to a nonprofit organization that operates as a statewide association of food banks that, together, serve all counties in Wisconsin. Under the amendment, the grant may also be awarded to an organization that provides statewide support to a network of emergency feeding organizations and distributes food or federal commodities to all counties in Wisconsin.

The amendment also prohibits the food bank association which receives the grant, as well as any food banks to which grant funds are distributed, from charging a fee for providing or delivering products that were made available through grant funds. In addition, the amendment specifies that products made available through grant funds may only be distributed to food pantries or other organizations that operate in Wisconsin and are members in good standing of a food bank or emergency feeding organization.

BILL HISTORY

On January 4, 2018, Representative Krug offered Assembly Amendment 2. On January 9, 2018, the Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection unanimously recommended adoption of the amendment. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes 6; Noes 3.

AB:jal