
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2019 Wisconsin Act 176
[2019 Senate Bill 437]

**Revenue Limit Ceiling for School
Districts**

BACKGROUND

State law provides a method for calculating a school district's per pupil revenue limit each school year and sets a revenue ceiling, which is set at \$9,700 for the 2019-20 school year and at \$10,000 for each school year thereafter. If, in a given school year, a school district's revenue limit, calculated according to the statutory formula, is less than the revenue ceiling, then the school district is permitted to increase its per pupil revenue limit up to the revenue ceiling in that school year without seeking electorate approval via an operating referendum.

However, if a school district attempts and fails to pass a resolution to exceed its revenue limit at an operating referendum, then, for the three school years following the school year during which the referendum was held, the school district's revenue ceiling is set, or frozen, at the statutory amount that applied in the school year during which the referendum was held.

2019 WISCONSIN ACT 176

2019 Wisconsin Act 176 creates an exception to the requirement that a school district's revenue ceiling be frozen following a failed operating referendum. Specifically, the act provides that the revenue ceiling freeze does not apply to an operating referendum held during the 2018-19 school year if: (1) the resolution to exceed the revenue limit was for the recurring costs of operating and maintaining a new school building; and (2) at the same election, the electorate also rejected a resolution to issue general obligation bonds for the cost of constructing the new school building.

Effective date: March 5, 2020

RES:mca;jal