



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2019 Assembly Bill 124

Assembly Amendment 1

Memo published: June 19, 2019

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2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 124

2019 Assembly Bill 124 addresses two aspects of housing grants and loans administered by the Department of Administration (DOA).

First, the bill increases the appropriation for the homeless prevention program by \$500,000, for each of the next two fiscal years (2019-20 and 2020-21). In the 2017-19 biennium, approximately \$1,500,000 was provided for each year, for the program, from the housing grants and loans appropriation.

Second, the bill establishes funding for diversion programming. The funding is provided through an increase of \$300,000, for each of the next two fiscal years (2019-20 and 2020-21), in the housing grants and loans appropriation. The funds are to be used to provide short-term intervention that supports a person in identifying and connecting with immediate, safe housing arrangements in the person's support system, rather than using a temporary shelter. The grants and loans under the program are to be reasonably balanced among the Continuum of Care organizations that serve the geographic areas of the state.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 revises the method of providing the additional funding. Rather than increasing the scheduled appropriation for housing grants and loans, the amendment utilizes the procedure available under current law by which the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) may supplement an appropriation if it finds that funds are not available to accomplish the purpose of an authorized program and it finds that an emergency exists. Under the amendment, if DOA requests amounts from any supplemental funding set aside for the 2019-21 biennium,

JCF may approve the additional funding for the program without finding that an emergency exists.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Plumer offered Assembly Amendment 1 on May 31, 2019. On June 4, 2019, the Assembly Committee on Public Benefit Reform adopted the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 3; and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 1.

On June 18, 2019, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 1, and passed the bill, as amended, on voice votes.

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