
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2019 Assembly Bill 443

**Assembly
Amendment 1**

BACKGROUND

The enrolled version of the 2019-21 biennial budget bill authorized the State Building Commission to award a \$15 million grant to establish a northern Wisconsin regional crisis center, and to authorize up to that amount in general fund-supported borrowing for the project. Following a gubernatorial veto, that authorization applied instead to an unspecified “center.”

2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 443

2019 Assembly Bill 443 requires the State Building Commission to award the \$15 million appropriated in the biennial budget act to HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire County, if the hospital agrees to expand its psychiatric bed capacity by approximately 22 beds between locations in Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties. The bill also requires the building commission to authorize general fund-supported borrowing for that purpose.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 makes the building commission’s authority to award the grant and authorize borrowing permissive rather than mandatory.

In addition, the amendment removes the word “approximately,” with the effect of requiring the hospital to agree to expand capacity by at least 22 beds as a condition of the grant.

BILL HISTORY

Representative James and others introduced 2019 Assembly Bill 443 on September 13, 2019. Following a public hearing on the bill, Representative James offered Assembly Amendment 1 on January 27, 2019. On January 29, 2020, the Assembly Committee on State Affairs voted to recommend adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0. The committee then voted to recommend passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 4.

AH:jal