
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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Contact: Rachel E. Snyder, Staff Attorney

2019 Assembly Bill 524

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 1**

2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 524

Under current law, the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) may make grants to low-income farmers to pay all or part of the tuition associated with a technical college course on farm and business management techniques. Assembly Bill 524 appropriates \$50,000 in each year of the current fiscal biennium to fund the grants.

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 also appropriates \$50,000 in each year of the current fiscal biennium to fund technical college tuition assistance for farmers. However, under the amendment, the Wisconsin Technical College System Board, rather than DATCP, must award the grants. The amendment provides that grants may be awarded to current or prospective farmers, rather than only to low-income farmers, for enrollment in courses on farm management or farm finance, rather than for courses on farm and business management techniques.

Under the amendment, an award may be the lesser of 50 percent the tuition costs for enrollment in eligible courses or \$1,000, and a current or prospective farmer may receive an award for no more than three years.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Oldenburg introduced Assembly Bill 524 on October 11, 2019, and offered Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on October 22, 2019. On October 23, 2019, the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities recommended adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0.

RES:jal