

---

# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

---



**Memo published:** February 7, 2020

**Contact:** Rachel E. Snyder, Senior Staff Attorney

**2019 Assembly Bill 789**

**Assembly  
Amendment 2**

### 2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 789

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers a well compensation grant program to partially offset the cost of replacing, reconstructing, or treating eligible contaminated wells. Assembly Bill 789 makes several changes to the well compensation grant program, including the following:

- Increases the amount appropriated for the grant program by \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year.
- Eliminates certain eligibility requirements for wells contaminated by only nitrates or only bacteria so that such wells are more generally eligible for a grant.
- Creates a requirement that the DNR award grants for claims based on only nitrate contamination according to a specified priority ranking.
- Of the \$1,000,000 additional funds appropriated for the grant program, requires the DNR to allocate \$200,000 in each fiscal year for claims based on nitrate levels between 10 to 25 parts per million.
- Authorizes one additional full-time equivalent (FTE) position at the DNR for the purpose of creating a well compensation grant program administrator. This position is to be funded from the \$1,000,000 appropriation created under the bill.

### ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2

Instead of authorizing an additional FTE position at the DNR to be paid from the new \$1,000,000 appropriation, the amendment requires that the DNR reallocate an existing FTE position to create a well compensation grant program administrator position. This position is to be funded from the DNR's general operations appropriation.

### BILL HISTORY

Representative Shankland introduced Assembly Bill 789 on January 24, 2020. Representative Novak offered Assembly Amendment 2 on February 5, 2020. On February 6, 2020, the Assembly Committee on Rural Development recommended adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 4; and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 12; Noes, 0.

RES:jal