
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



Memo published: January 30, 2020

Contact: Dan Schmidt, Deputy Director

2019 Senate Bill 505

Senate Substitute Amendment 1

2019 SENATE BILL 505

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. Senate Bill 505 appropriates \$50,000 in each year of the current fiscal biennium to fund the grants.

SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Senate 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

Senator Olsen offered Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on December 4, 2019. On January 29, 2020, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Revenue, and Financial Institutions recommended adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 3, and passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 0.

DWS:ksm