



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 219 [2003 Senate Bill 410]	Fire Dues Program
2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/	Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

2003 Wisconsin Act 219 modifies the statutes related to the fire dues program that is administered by the Department of Commerce. Under that program, a municipality may receive funding for the purchase of fire protection equipment; fire inspection and public education; training of fire fighters and fire inspectors; and funding fire fighters' pension funds or other special funds.

In order to receive funding under the program, prior law required that the fire department must provide for the inspection of every public building and place of employment and must meet other requirements with regard to use of funds received under the fire dues program. The Act requires that the fire department must be in "substantial compliance" with those statutory requirements. The Department of Commerce is required to promulgate a rule that defines "substantial compliance."

The Act also requires the Department of Commerce to promulgate a rule that defines "administrative expenses" for purposes of the statute that relates to distribution of fire dues funds for administrative expenses. Under the statutes, money is transferred from the fire dues appropriation line to the administrative expenses appropriation line in an amount specified in the appropriation schedule in ch. 20, Stats. On June 30 of each year, the unencumbered balance in the administrative expenses appropriation line reverts to the fire dues appropriation line. The Act requires the Department of Commerce to promulgate a rule that defines "administrative expenses" and requires that the proposed rule be submitted to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse no later than October 1, 2004.

Effective Date: The Act generally takes effect on April 23, 2004, except that the provisions relating to "substantial compliance" take effect on December 1, 2004.

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RNS:ksm

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.