



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 269
[2005 Assembly Bill 1028]

Wisconsin Disaster Relief Program

2005 Wisconsin Act 269 creates what is being called the Wisconsin Disaster Relief Program, to make payments to local units of government for damages and costs incurred as a result of a natural disaster, if one of the following conditions is met:

1. The Governor has requested a federal disaster declaration and the request has been denied; or
2. The Governor has not requested a federal disaster declaration because the disaster does not meet the statewide or countywide criteria for such a declaration issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The program is administered by the Division of Emergency Management in the Department of Military Affairs. Act 269 provides \$3,000,000 in each year of the 2005-07 Biennium from the petroleum inspection fund to provide payments to local units of government. The local units of government are required to contribute 30% of the amount of the damages and costs resulting from the disaster.

The Department of Military Affairs is directed to promulgate administrative rules establishing the application process and the criteria for determining eligibility for payments.

Effective Date: April 20, 2006.*

Prepared by: Pam Shannon, Senior Staff Attorney

April 10, 2006

*Act 269 takes effect on April 20, 2006. However, the Act *applies* retroactively to January 1, 2005, in order to make program funds available for the August 2005 tornado damage to a number of Wisconsin communities.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.