



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 357
[2015 Assembly Bill 810]

Fox River Navigational Center

2015 Wisconsin Act 357 (the Act) authorizes certain activities relating to the Fox River Navigational System and the construction and operation of a visitor center for the Fox River Navigational System.

TRADE OR SALE OF LAND BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

The Act authorizes the Department of Administration (DOA) to trade a parcel of land in the Fox Valley Navigational System for another parcel of land, if the parcels are of comparable value and any of the following situations apply:

- The parcel to be received by DOA is more suitable to the purposes of the navigational system than the parcel to be traded by DOA.
- The trade consolidates navigational system land.
- The trade settles a boundary dispute or encroachment.

The Act also authorizes DOA to sell a parcel of land located in the City of Appleton to the City of Appleton for the purpose of constructing a visitor center for the Fox River Navigational System. The Act exempts such a sale from certain requirements generally applicable to sales of land by DOA. However, the Act requires that a deed transferring title to land for this purpose must restrict the City of Appleton from using the land for any purpose other than the construction, operation, and maintenance of a visitor center.

POWERS OF THE FOX RIVER NAVIGATIONAL AUTHORITY

Prior law, retained by the Act, authorized the Fox River Navigational Authority to acquire, lease, or dispose of property, if necessary for rehabilitating, repairing, replacing, operating, or maintaining the Fox River Navigational System.

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.wisconsin.gov>.

The Act authorizes the Fox River Navigational Authority to also acquire, lease, or dispose of property if necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a navigational system visitor center. In addition, the Act specifies that a lease agreement for that purpose is not subject to approval by the Building Commission.

The Act also authorizes the Fox Valley Navigational Authority to take certain actions relating to the visitor center. Specifically, the Act authorizes the authority to construct and maintain a visitor center and to establish an escrow account with moneys sufficient to dispose of the visitor center or terminate the lease associated with the visitor center.

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