



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2003 Senate Bill 252

Senate Amendments 1 and 2

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Senate Bill 252 relates to the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) review of land acquisitions and property development projects by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) under the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 program.

Current Law

Before the adoption of the 2003-05 State Biennial Budget Bill, 2003 Wisconsin Act 33, the DNR could not obligate money from the state's Capitol Improvement Fund for a land acquisition or property development project under the stewardship program costing more than \$250,000 until the DNR notified the JCF of the proposed project and the JCF was given the opportunity to review the project under a 14-day passive review process.

As passed by the Legislature, the 2003-05 Budget Bill eliminated the \$250,000 threshold except for grants for local assistance and nonprofit conservation organizations under the stewardship program's property development and local assistance subprogram. In signing this bill, the Governor, through partial vetoes, modified the text of Act 33 so that the Act repeals all JCF passive review requirements for land acquisition, property development, and grant activities supported by the stewardship program.

Senate Bill 252

Senate Bill 252 reinstates the requirement for the DNR notification to JCF and the JCF 14-day passive review process for projects supported by the stewardship program, as the law existed before the enactment of 2003 Wisconsin Act 33.

Senate Amendment 1

Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 252 specifies that the DNR notification and JCF passive review process created by the bill would be in addition to any requirement that the DNR obtain any necessary approval of the Building Commission for the project.

Senate Amendment 2

Senate Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 252 modifies the JCF passive review process in the bill to include that the co-chairpersons of JCF must notify the members of JCF of the receipt of the proposal. If three or more members of JCF object to the proposal within 13 working days after the date of the DNR's notification, the amendment requires the co-chairpersons of JCF to schedule a meeting of the committee to review the proposal.

Legislative History

On October 20, 2003, the JCF recommended introduction and adoption of Senate Amendment 1 and passage of Senate Bill 252, as amended, on separate votes of Ayes, 11; Noes, 4. On November 5, 2003, Senator Cowles introduced Senate Amendment 2. The Senate adopted Senate Amendments 1 and 2 on voice votes and passed Senate Bill 252, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 18; Noes, 14, on November 5, 2003.

On January 20, 2004, the Assembly concurred in Senate Bill 252 on a vote of Ayes, 58; Noes, 37. The Governor vetoed Senate Bill 252 on February 4, 2004.

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