



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Assembly Bill 757	Assembly Amendment 1
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Current law authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to award cost-sharing grants to public and private entities for up to 50% of the costs of projects to control invasive species. “Invasive species” is defined as “nonindigenous species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.” [See s. 23.22, Stats.] The DNR is required to make available \$1 million in fiscal year 2005-06 and \$1.5 million in fiscal year 2006-07 and each fiscal year thereafter for cost-sharing grants to local governments to control aquatic invasive species.

Assembly Bill 757 creates a new cost-sharing grant program for projects to control aquatic invasive species. Under this program, the DNR is required to promulgate rules to establish procedures for the grant program for projects to chemically treat or mechanically harvest infestations of invasive species that are aquatic species and that are found in inland waters. The cost-sharing grants are made to counties and the county must contribute 25% of the project costs or \$10,000, whichever is less. The DNR rules for the grant program are required to give priority to counties that have a full-time equivalent position dedicated to invasive species management. The DNR is required to make \$5 million available in each fiscal year to fund grants under the program.

Assembly Amendment 1 expands the scope of the grant program purposes to include not only chemical treatment and mechanical harvesting but rather any actions to cut, remove, destroy, suppress, or prevent the introduction or spread of aquatic invasive species. The 25% cost-share requirement for counties must also be addressed in rules adopted by DNR, to allow counties to make the cost-share payment in any form, including in-kind goods or services. The provision that gives priority to a county with a full-time equivalent position dedicated to invasive species management is deleted.

Legislative History

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources on January 18, 2006 and recommended for adoption by a vote of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0. The committee recommended passage of the bill, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0.

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