



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2013 Assembly Bill 173	Assembly Amendments 1 & 2
<i>Memo published: November 14, 2013</i>	<i>Contact: David Moore, Staff Attorney (266-1946)</i>

2013 Assembly Bill 173 establishes an authorized special group, enumerated in state law, for persons interested in obtaining special registration plates supporting Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. In addition to the regular registration fee, special group members are required to pay a \$15 fee for the issuance or reissuance of the special plates, and a \$25 annual fee that serves as a donation to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. Under the bill, the Department of Transportation (DOT) first covers its costs of production from these donations and then directs the remainder to Trout Unlimited. The amount that DOT withholds to cover its costs is the lesser of \$23,700 or DOT's initial costs of production of these special plates.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Under Assembly Amendment 1, DOT does not issue or begin development work on the Trout Unlimited special registration plates until DOT receives contributions totaling the lesser of \$23,700 or DOT's final estimate of its initial costs of production of the special plates. The amendment also provides that these development costs are funded only from DOT's appropriation for gifts and donations, rather than DOT's appropriation for Department of Motor Vehicle operations. There is a June 30, 2017 deadline for DOT to receive the contributions necessary to produce the Trout Unlimited plates. If DOT does not receive sufficient contributions by this date, DOT will not develop them and must promptly return to each contributor his or her contributions, minus up to \$2.50 to cover the costs associated with returning the contributions. If DOT receives sufficient contributions by the deadline, it will begin issuing Trout Unlimited plates to persons who request them and the full amount of the \$25 annual payment will be directed to Trout Unlimited.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2

Under Assembly Amendment 2, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, Inc., may not expend any payments it receives from the sale of Trout Unlimited registration plates for any lobbying activities. The amendment also requires Trout Unlimited to submit a copy of its bylaws to the presiding officer of each house of the Legislature within approximately eight months of the bill's enactment. Finally, the

amendment provides that DOT may not make payments to Trout Unlimited until Trout Unlimited obtains and provides to DOT an opinion letter from the Internal Revenue Service that Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, Inc., is eligible for the exemption from taxation under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

BILL HISTORY

Representative J. Ott offered Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 173 on September 25, 2013. Representatives Bernard Schaber, Kolste, and Danou offered Assembly Amendment 2 to Assembly Bill 173 on November 8, 2013. On November 12, 2013, the Assembly Committee on Transportation voted to recommend adoption of Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0, and adoption of Assembly Amendment 2 on a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 5. On the same day, the committee voted to recommend passage of Assembly Bill 173, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0.

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