



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2013 Senate Bill 657**

**Senate Amendment 1**

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2013 Senate Bill 657 relates to duty disability benefit programs.

### **2013 SENATE BILL 657**

Senate Bill 657 revises two aspects of the duty disability benefit program for protective occupation participants, which is administered by the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF):

- The bill provides that if an employee who qualifies for a duty disability benefit does not accept another position that may be offered by the employer, the employee's duty disability benefit is forfeited. If the employee accepts the position, the monthly disability benefit amount is reduced by those earnings in the same manner as provided under current law for any earnings from that employer.
- The bill requires a person who qualifies for a duty disability benefit to be examined every five years by at least one physician who is designated or approved by the Wisconsin Retirement Board. If a person refuses to submit to the examination, or if the physician reports that any disability is no longer likely to be permanent, the benefit payments must be terminated.

The bill also prohibits collective bargaining on the features, eligibility, methodology, and impact of duty disability and survivor benefits for municipal and state public safety employees.

Lastly, the bill requires the Legislative Audit Bureau to conduct a program evaluation of the duty disability and survivor benefit program administered by ETF, and the comparable programs administered by the county and the City of Milwaukee. The audit must examine the history and purposes of the programs, their costs and benefits, and any inequities or abuse of

the programs, and must compare the programs with similar programs in other states. The report, including any recommendations, must be submitted before January 1, 2015.

### **SENATE AMENDMENT 1**

Senate Amendment 1 removes the provisions that prohibit collective bargaining on duty disability and survivor benefits for municipal and state public safety employees, and removes the provisions that revise the duty disability benefit program administered by ETF. Consequently, under the amendment, only the provision requiring an audit of such programs remains in effect.

### **BILL HISTORY**

On March 25, 2014, the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor recommended adoption of the amendment, and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

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