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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

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**2019 Assembly Bill 810**

**Assembly Substitute  
Amendment 1**

### 2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 810

2019 Assembly Bill 810 requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to establish a computerized, uniform budget and accounting system that meets certain criteria. The system must allow DPI to report detailed information regarding receipt and expenditure of funds by school district and by school, must conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and must make receipt and expenditure data available on a single webpage of DPI's Internet site in a format that allows the public to download, sort, search, and access the data at no cost. DPI must require school boards, charter schools, and county children with disabilities education boards to use the system beginning in the 2021-22 school year.

The bill also establishes an advisory committee to advise DPI on the creation and maintenance of the uniform budget and accounting system. The 11-member committee must submit an advisory report to DPI by January 1, 2021, that includes recommendations on certain reporting categories to be included in the system, financial data to be collected by and included in the system, and whether DPI's hardware, software, data collection methods, and other items are appropriate for the system.

DPI must respond in writing to the advisory committee regarding whether the agency will implement each recommendation in the report, and if not, its reasons for declining to do so. DPI must submit the report and the agency's responses to the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) for passive review. If JCF schedules a meeting to review DPI's response to the report within 14 days, then DPI may not establish the computerized uniform budget and accounting system until JCF approves DPI's plan to implement or reject each recommendation. If JCF does not schedule a meeting, DPI must implement the recommendations, as modified in the agency's response, in establishing the system.

### ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 imposes requirements on DPI relating to a financial information portal, rather than a uniform budget and accounting system. Under the substitute amendment, DPI must make receipt and expenditure data collected through the existing uniform accounting system and through annual school district reports available on a single webpage of DPI's Internet site in a format that allows the public to download, sort, search, and access the information at no cost. DPI must also include information from independent charter schools on the webpage, to the extent feasible without requiring the schools to report additional information.

The substitute amendment creates an 11-member advisory committee to advise DPI on the creation and design of the financial information portal. The committee must submit its report to DPI by April 15, 2021, which must contain the recommendations required under the original bill, as well as a recommendation regarding financial resources necessary for implementation and maintenance by DPI. As under the bill, DPI must respond to the committee regarding whether it will implement each

recommendation, and if not, the reasons for declining. DPI must submit the report and its responses to JCF for passive review, as required by the bill. Under the substitute amendment, DPI must implement the financial information portal no later than 13 months after passive review or approval by JCF, but may wait until the 2023-24 school year to include financial information for individual schools in the portal.

## **BILL HISTORY**

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Felzkowski on February 12, 2020. On the same date, the Assembly Committee on Education adopted Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 4. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 10; Noes, 5.

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