
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2021 Assembly Bill 777

**Assembly
Amendment 1**

2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 777

Under current law, the Department of Justice (DOJ) may award grants to cities to employ additional uniformed law enforcement officers whose primary duty is beat patrolling. DOJ must award grants to the 10 eligible cities with the highest rates of violent crime offenses in the most recent year for which data is available according to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). A city may receive a grant for three consecutive years without submitting a new application each year.

2021 Assembly Bill 777 provides additional grants that are funded by moneys accepted by the Governor pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act, P.L. 117-2. Specifically, the bill provides grants to political subdivisions for:

- Additional policing to address automobile theft and carjacking.
- Strategic planning to combat crime.
- Beat patrol and specialized law enforcement officers.¹

Regarding grants for beat patrol and specialized law enforcement officers, a political subdivision may receive a grant for the following year if it applies by September 1 and submits certain information to DOJ, such as a proposed plan of expenditure for the funds. DOJ must establish criteria for use in determining the amount to award to political subdivisions, including the rates of violent crime offenses in the most recent year for which data is available according to the FBI's UCR system and, if applicable, the applicant's success in using previous grants to reduce crime and achieve other goals.

The bill removes the provision that allows a political subdivision to receive a grant for three consecutive years without submitting a new application each year.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 makes the following changes to the bill regarding grants for beat patrol and specialized law enforcement officers:

- Requires that grants be awarded to the 10 eligible political subdivisions that submit an application that have the highest rates of violent crime index offenses in the most recent year for which data is available according to the FBI's UCR system.

¹ The bill defines a specialized law enforcement officer as a law enforcement officer whose primary duties and assignments relate to achieving a law enforcement or public safety goal.

- Specifies that if a jurisdiction is the subject of more than one eligible application for a grant, DOJ must award the grant to the political subdivision with the law enforcement agency that predominantly responds to calls for service.
- Allows a political subdivision to receive a grant for three consecutive years without submitting a new application each year.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Cabral-Guevara introduced Assembly Amendment 1 on January 3, 2022. On January 18, 2022, the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 12; Noes, 0; and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 5.

TK:jal