



State of Wisconsin
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4635/1
TKK:jld&klm

2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 615

November 8, 2017 - Introduced by Representatives POPE, GENRICH, HEBL, KOLSTE, DOYLE, SPREITZER, HESSELBEIN, GOYKE, SARGENT, HINTZ, ANDERSON, SHANKLAND, BERCEAU, RIEMER, SUBECK, BOWEN, ZAMARRIPA, OHNSTAD, MEYERS, SINICKI and BILLINGS, cosponsored by Senators BEWLEY, VINEHOUT, LARSON, SHILLING, ERPENBACH, JOHNSON, RINGHAND and HANSEN. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 **AN ACT** *to repeal* 115.436 (3) (b); *to renumber and amend* 115.436 (2) (a),
2 115.436 (2) (c) and 115.436 (3) (am); *to amend* 20.255 (2) (ae) and 115.436 (3)
3 (a); and *to create* 115.436 (2) (a) 1., 115.436 (2) (a) 2., 115.436 (2) (c) 2., 115.436
4 (3) (ag) and 115.436 (3) (am) 2. of the statutes; **relating to:** sparsity aid and
5 making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill changes the appropriation for sparsity aid from a sum certain appropriation to a sum sufficient appropriation and makes additional school districts eligible for sparsity aid.

Under current law, a school district is eligible for sparsity aid in the amount of \$300 per pupil if the school district's membership in the previous school year did not exceed 745 pupils and if the membership divided by the school district's area in square miles (pupil density) is less than ten. Also under current law, as affected by 2017 Wisconsin Act 59, the 2017 Biennial Budget Act, a school district that was eligible to receive sparsity aid in the previous school year but that is not eligible to receive sparsity aid in the current school year may receive up to 50 percent of the aid the school district received in the previous school year. Currently, in any school year in which the amount appropriated to the sparsity aid program is insufficient to pay the full amount to all eligible school districts, the Department of Public Instruction must prorate the payments.

Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, the per pupil payment to eligible school districts with a pupil density of less than ten increases to \$400. In addition, the bill

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makes a school district that has a pupil density of less than ten and a membership of between 745 and 1,000 pupils eligible for sparsity aid. Also under this bill, beginning in the 2018-19 school year, a school district with between 1,001 and 2,700 pupils and a pupil density of less than seven pupils per square mile is eligible for sparsity aid in the amount of \$100 per pupil. The bill eliminates the need to prorate payments among eligible school districts.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 20.255 (2) (ae) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 20.255 (2) (ae) *Sparsity aid.* ~~The amounts in the schedule A sum sufficient for~~
3 sparsity aid to school districts under s. 115.436.

4 **SECTION 2.** 115.436 (2) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 115.436 (2) (a) (intro.)
5 and amended to read:

6 115.436 (2) (a) (intro.) The school district's membership in the previous school
7 year was no more than 745. one of the following:

8 **SECTION 3.** 115.436 (2) (a) 1. of the statutes is created to read:

9 115.436 (2) (a) 1. No more than 1,000.

10 **SECTION 4.** 115.436 (2) (a) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

11 115.436 (2) (a) 2. No less 1,001 and no more than 2,700.

12 **SECTION 5.** 115.436 (2) (c) of the statutes is renumbered 115.436 (2) (c) 1. and
13 amended to read:

14 115.436 (2) (c) 1. ~~The~~ For a school district with a membership under par. (a) 1.,
15 the school district's membership in the previous school year divided by the school
16 district's area in square miles is less than 10.

17 **SECTION 6.** 115.436 (2) (c) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

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1 115.436 (2) (c) 2. For a school district with a membership under par. (a) 2., the
2 school district's membership in the previous school year divided by the school
3 district's area in square miles is less than 7.

4 **SECTION 7.** 115.436 (3) (a) of the statutes, as affected by 2017 Wisconsin Act 59,
5 is amended to read:

6 115.436 (3) (a) Beginning in the ~~2009-10~~ 2018-19 school year, from the
7 appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (ae) ~~and subject to par. (b)~~, the department shall
8 pay to each school district eligible for sparsity aid ~~\$300~~ and with a membership under
9 sub. (2) (a) 1. \$400 multiplied by the membership in the previous school year.

10 **SECTION 8.** 115.436 (3) (ag) of the statutes is created to read:

11 115.436 (3) (ag) Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, from the appropriation
12 under s. 20.255 (2) (ae), the department shall pay to each school district eligible for
13 sparsity aid and with a membership under sub. (2) (a) 2. \$100 multiplied by the
14 membership in the previous school year.

15 **SECTION 9.** 115.436 (3) (am) of the statutes, as affected by 2017 Wisconsin Act
16 59, is renumbered 115.436 (3) (am) 1. and amended to read:

17 115.436 (3) (am) 1. Beginning in the ~~2017-18~~ 2018-19 school year, from the
18 appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (ae), the department shall, ~~subject to par. (b)~~, pay
19 to each school district that received aid under this section in the previous school year
20 but does not satisfy the ~~requirement~~ requirements under sub. (2) (a) 1. and (c) 1. in
21 the current school year 50 percent of the amount received by the school district under
22 par. (a) in the previous school year.

23 **SECTION 10.** 115.436 (3) (am) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

24 115.436 (3) (am) 2. Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, from the
25 appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (ae), the department shall pay to each school

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SECTION 10

1 district that received aid under this section in the previous school year but does not
2 satisfy the requirements under sub. (2) (a) 2. and (c) 2. in the current school year 50
3 percent of the amount received by the school district under par. (ag) in the previous
4 school year.

5 **SECTION 11.** 115.436 (3) (b) of the statutes, as affected by 2017 Wisconsin Act
6 59, is repealed.

7 **(END)**