State of Misconsin 2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

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2019 SENATE BILL 437

September 23, 2019 - Introduced by Senator Cowles, cosponsored by Representative Steineke. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT relating to: the revenue limit ceiling for school districts.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the formula for determining a school district's revenue limit does not apply to a school district with per pupil revenue that is less than the revenue ceiling. Instead, the school district is allowed to increase its per pupil revenue up to the revenue ceiling.

Under current law, the per pupil revenue ceiling is \$9,700 in the 2019–20 school year and \$10,000 in each school year thereafter. However, under current law, the general per pupil revenue ceiling amount does not apply to a school district in which, in any of the three preceding school years, a referendum question to exceed the district's revenue limit for operating costs was rejected. For such a school district, the per pupil revenue ceiling amount is the per pupil revenue ceiling amount that applied in the school year in which the operating referendum was rejected (revenue ceiling freeze).

This bill creates an exception to the revenue ceiling freeze. Under the bill, the revenue ceiling freeze does not apply to an operating referendum that was rejected at an election held in the 2018–19 school year if (a) the operating referendum was for the costs of operating and maintaining a new school building and (b) at the same election, the voters rejected a referendum to incur debt for the purpose of constructing the new school building.

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For further information see the *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:

SECTION 1. Nonstatutory provisions.

- (1) Section 121.905 (1) (b) 2. does not apply to a referendum on a resolution adopted by a school board under s. 121.91 (3) (a) that was held during the 2018–19 school year if all of the following apply:
- (a) The resolution adopted by the school board under s. 121.91 (3) (a) was for the recurring costs of operating and maintaining a new school building.
- (b) At the same election at which the resolution under par. (a) was rejected, a majority of those voting rejected a resolution adopted by the school board to issue general obligation bonds for the costs of constructing the new school building referenced in the resolution under par. (a).

11 (END)