



State of Wisconsin
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0595/P1
MES:amn

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

1 **AN ACT to amend** 16.25 (3) (d) 1., 16.25 (3) (g) and 20.505 (4) (er) (title) of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** revising the length-of-service awards program in the
3 Department of Administration for volunteer emergency response personnel.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill makes a number of changes to the Department of Administration's length-of-service awards program for volunteer fire fighters, EMTs, and first responders. Under the bill, the state match of political subdivision payments from such awards increases from 50 percent to twice the amount contributed by a political subdivision, and the maximum amount of a state payment increases from \$250 to \$500 for each volunteer each year. The bill also reduces full vesting for the program from 20 years of service to 15 years, and reduces the vesting age from 60 to 53.

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:

4 **SECTION 1.** 16.25 (3) (d) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:
5 16.25 (3) (d) 1. Subject to subd. 2., the department shall ~~match~~ double all
6 annual municipal contributions paid for volunteer fire fighters, first responders, and

1 emergency medical technicians up to ~~\$250~~ \$500 per fiscal year, other than
2 contributions paid for the purchase of additional years of service under par. (e), to be
3 paid from the appropriation account under s. 20.505 (4) (er). This amount shall be
4 adjusted annually on July 1 to reflect any changes in the U.S. consumer price index
5 for all urban consumers, U.S. city average, as determined by the U.S. department of
6 labor, for the 12-month period ending on the preceding December 31. The
7 department shall pay all amounts that are ~~matched~~ doubled under this paragraph
8 to the individuals and organizations offering the plans selected by the
9 municipalities.

10 **SECTION 2.** 16.25 (3) (g) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 16.25 (3) (g) A volunteer fire fighter, first responder, or emergency medical
12 technician shall be paid a length of service award either in a lump sum or in a manner
13 specified by rule, consisting of all municipal and state contributions made on behalf
14 of the volunteer fire fighter, first responder, or emergency medical technician and all
15 earnings on the contributions, less any expenses incurred in the investment of the
16 contributions and earnings, after the volunteer fire fighter, first responder, or
17 emergency medical technician attains ~~20~~ 15 years of service for a municipality and
18 reaches the age of ~~60~~ 53. If a volunteer fire fighter, first responder, or emergency
19 medical technician has satisfied all vesting requirements under the program but has
20 less than ~~20~~ 15 years of service for a municipality or has not reached the age of ~~60~~
21 53, the program shall provide for the payment of a length of service award either in
22 a lump sum or in a manner specified by rule in an amount to be determined by the
23 department, but less than the amount paid to a volunteer fire fighter, first responder,
24 or emergency medical technician who has attained ~~20~~ 15 years of service for a
25 municipality and has reached the age of ~~60~~ 53.

