



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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January 30, 2008

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 83: Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council

2007 Assembly Bill 83 would create an Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council in the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The bill, as amended by the Assembly Committee on Education, is described in the attached Legislative Council staff memorandum. This document describes an amendment that was introduced after standing committee action on the bill, and discusses the fiscal effect of the bill.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 6

The amendment would delete the GPR appropriation in the bill and associated language relating to the release of GPR in an amount to match program revenue gifts and grants. Instead, the amendment would provide for 1.0 PR executive director position (rather than 0.5 GPR and 0.5 PR under the original bill). The amendment would delete the GPR fiscal effect of the bill.

FISCAL EFFECT

The bill would authorize the hiring of an executive director for the council and appropriate \$75,000 GPR annually with 0.5 GPR position and 0.5 PR position in a program revenue continuing appropriation that would receive gifts and grants to support the activities of the council. (Assembly Amendment 6 would shift all funding to PR, eliminating the general fund effect of the original bill.) Council members would not be reimbursed for their expenses associated with duties of the Council.

The Departments of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Workforce Development, Public Instruction, Natural Resources and Commerce, as well as the Technical College and University of Wisconsin Systems submitted fiscal notes to the bill. The bill specifies the agencies may assist the council in performing its duties. The agencies generally indicate the fiscal impact of

the bill is not known and would depend, in part, on the level to which the agency chooses to participate in council activities. Duties of the Council include, but are not limited to, producing an annual report each September; and reviewing and developing recommendations related to agricultural and workforce development related curricula, hiring, retention, training and policies. Each state agency would be required to support any actual and necessary expenses incurred by its participation on the council. DATCP indicates that if it were to become primarily responsible for council support it may require a one-half time to full-time support position. The bill would make no appropriation to any agency beyond the executive director position and appropriation for associated costs provided to DATCP under the bill. DATCP could accept gifts and grants to offset Council expenses under the bill.

Further, some agencies note that the policy recommendations of the Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council could require additional state and local resources to implement in the future.

Prepared by: Daryl Hinz
Attachment



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AMENDMENT MEMO

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| 2007 Assembly Bill 83 | Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 |
| <i>Memo published: April 24, 2007</i> | <i>Contact: Joyce L. Kiel, Senior Staff Attorney (266-3137)</i> |

CREATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Bill

The bill creates the Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council (Council) in the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The membership of the Council consists of: (a) four legislators; (b) the secretaries of ATCP, Workforce Development, Commerce, and Natural Resources; the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (State Superintendent); the president of the University of Wisconsin (UW) System; and the director of the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) or their designees as long as a designee is an employee or appointive officer of the person's department or education system who has sufficient authority to deploy department or system resources and directly influence department or educational institution decision making; (c) the chancellor of the UW-Extension; (d) a member chosen by the deans of several designated colleges; and (e) 15 members designated by the Secretary of ATCP representing various businesses and organizations related to agriculture, food, natural resources, renewable energy, and a representative of the ATCP Board.

Assembly Amendment 1

Assembly Amendment 1 does the following:

- Provides that the chancellor of the UW-Extension also may appoint a designee to serve on the Council as long as the designee meets the qualifications for other designees as noted above.
- Specifies that the member chosen by the deans of the various colleges is to be chosen *jointly* by them.
- Adds six members to the Council, namely: (a) a technical college district director and a technical college dean with authority over agricultural programs—both appointed by the

director of the WTCS; and (b) a teacher who teaches classes in science, vocational technology, business, math, or a similar field; a school guidance counselor; a school board member; and a school district administrator—all appointed by the State Superintendent.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL; ADVISING STATE AGENCIES; REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND ANNUAL REPORT

Functions of the Council

The Bill

The bill provides that the Council is directed to seek to do all of the following:

1. Increase the hiring and retention of well-qualified employees in industries related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.
2. Promote the coordination of educational systems and curricula to develop, train, and retrain employees for current and future careers related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.
3. Develop support for employment in fields related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.
4. Recommend policies and other changes to improve the efficiency of the development and provision of agricultural education.

The Council is required to identify criteria for evaluating the success of its activities and then evaluate its activities using those criteria.

Assembly Amendment 1

This amendment changes item 2., above, to delete reference to educational curricula. The amendment also changes item 4., above, to refer to the efficiency of the development and provision of agricultural education *across educational systems*. (Change shown in italics.)

Advising State Agencies

The Bill

The Council is directed to seek to accomplish the purposes stated above by advising state agencies on matters related to agricultural education and workforce development, including all of the following: (a) coordination of programs; (b) exchange of information related to educational needs; and (c) monitoring and evaluation of programs.

Assembly Amendment 1

This amendment changes this to directing the Council to seek to accomplish these purposes by advising state agencies on matters related to *integrating* agricultural education and workforce development *systems*, including all of the following: (a) coordination of programs; (b) exchange of information related to educational *and workforce development* needs; and (c) monitoring and evaluation of programs. (Changes shown in italics.)

Review of Agricultural Education Programs

The Bill

The bill does not include provisions requiring a review of agricultural education programs.

Assembly Amendment 1

This amendment requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to annually prepare a review of agricultural education programs in primary and secondary schools. It also requires the WTCS to prepare a review of such programs in technical colleges and requires various entities to prepare a review of such programs in the UW System.

Annual Report

The Bill

The Council is required to submit a report each September to: the Legislature, Governor, several specified cabinet secretaries, State Superintendent, president of the UW System, director of the WTCS, chancellor of the UW-Extension, and chancellors of several specified UW institutions. The report must include:

1. A summary of Council's activities in the preceding fiscal year, including an evaluation of the success of the Council's activities using the criteria identified by the Council for evaluating its activities.
2. An assessment of agricultural education programs.
3. A list of current and anticipated problems related to agricultural education.
4. The Council's recommendations, including any recommendations related to the structure or termination of the Council.
5. Any dissenting opinions of Council members related to the activities and recommendations of the Council.

Assembly Amendment 1

This amendment requires the Council to additionally include in its annual report the reviews of agricultural education programs in primary and secondary schools, technical colleges, and the UW System noted above, and the Council's reaction to the reviews.

The amendment also changes item 3., above, to refer to a list of current and anticipated *challenges* (rather than problems) related to agricultural education.

OPERATION OF THE COUNCIL

Executive Committee and Other Committees

The Bill

Executive Committee. The Council is required to create an executive committee to provide guidance to the Council and to staff that support the Council's functions. The executive committee is required to meet between Council meetings.

Other Committees. The Council may create other committees to assist in its work. The committee members may include members of the Council, employees of the agencies and educational institutions that have members on the Council, representatives of organizations, and others. The Council must consider the need for committees on the subjects within the scope of the Council's functions and other subjects determined to be appropriate by the Council. Any committee appointed (other than the executive committee) must annually provide a written summary of its meetings and activities to the executive committee for review and inclusion in the annual report referred to above.

Assembly Amendment 1

Executive Committee. This amendment specifies that the executive committee must include the Secretary of ATCP or his or her designee and the State Superintendent or his or her designee. The amendment also provides that state employees must be fewer than half of the members of the executive committee.

Other Committees. This amendment deletes the provision authorizing the Council to create other committees but provides that the executive committee may create other committees to assist the Council in its work. As amended, the bill would provide that the Council and the executive committee must consider the need for committees on the subjects within the scope of the Council's functions and other subjects determined to be appropriate by the Council and the executive committee.

Executive Director

The Bill

The bill increases the position authorization for DATCP for a full-time executive director of the Council. This is accomplished by granting authority to DATCP for a .5 full-time equivalent (FTE) position funded by general purpose revenue (GPR) from a newly created separate appropriation to DATCP for the Council (discussed below) and a .5 FTE position funded by program revenue (PR) from the gifts and grants received by DATCP to carry out the activities of the Council.

Meetings

The Bill

Page 4, lines 14 to 15, of the bill provides that the Council is required to meet at least once a year and may meet at other times on the call of at least six Council members. However, page 7, lines 6 to 7, of the bill provides that the Council must meet at least annually and may meet at other times on the call of at least six Council members or on the call of the executive committee.

Assembly Amendment 2

Assembly Amendment 2 deletes the language on page 4, lines 14 to 15, of the bill. Thus, as amended, the bill would provide that the Council must meet at least annually and may meet at other times on the call of at least six Council members or on the call of the executive committee.

Appropriations

The Bill

The bill creates a separate PR appropriation to DATCP from the moneys received as gifts and grants to carry out the activities of the Council.

The bill also creates a separate appropriation to DATCP of \$75,000 GPR per state fiscal year, beginning in fiscal year 2007-08, for the activities of the Council. However, the bill provides that, in any fiscal year, DATCP cannot encumber from this appropriation an amount that exceeds the amount of private contributions received for the purposes of the Council in that fiscal year.

No Expense Reimbursement

The Bill

Current law provides for numerous councils. Under current law, members of a council are not compensated for their services. However, with one exception (for members of the Loan Originator Council), current law provides that members of a council must be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses in performing their duties, with such reimbursement, in the case of an elective or appointive officer or state employee who represents an agency on a council, paid by the agency which pays his or her salary.

The bill specifies that members of the Council may not be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties.

Assistance

The Bill

The bill provides that all of the following may assist the Council in performing its functions: DATCP; DPI; the Department of Workforce Development, the Department of Natural Resources, the WTCS; the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences of the UW-Madison; the College of Business, Industry, Life Science, and Agriculture of the UW-Platteville; the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences of the UW-River Falls; and the College of Natural Resources of the UW-Stevens Point.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The Bill

The bill provides that it takes effect on July 1, 2007, or the date after publication of the 2007-09 Biennial Budget Act, whichever is later.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 to the bill were introduced by Representative A. Ott. The Assembly Committee on Education recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 1, and of Assembly Amendment 2 on a votes of Ayes, 10; Noes, 0. The committee introduced Assembly Amendments 3, 4, and 5 but did not recommend adoption of them. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 1.

JLK:ksm