



State of Wisconsin  
2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0750/1  
KP&EHS:wlj

## 2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 1117

March 10, 2022 - Introduced by Representative SHANKLAND, cosponsored by Senator SMITH. Referred to Committee on Energy and Utilities.

1        **AN ACT to amend** 7.33 (1) (c), 13.172 (1), 13.62 (2), 13.94 (4) (a) 1., 13.95 (intro.),  
2            16.002 (2), 16.004 (4), 16.004 (5), 16.004 (12) (a), 16.01 (1), 16.045 (1) (a), 16.41  
3            (4), 16.417 (1) (b), 16.52 (7), 16.528 (1) (a), 16.53 (2), 16.54 (9) (a) 1., 16.70 (2),  
4            16.75 (1m), 16.765 (1), 16.765 (2), 16.765 (5), 16.765 (6), 16.765 (7) (intro.),  
5            16.765 (7) (d), 16.765 (8), 16.838 (1) (b), 16.85 (2), 16.865 (8), 23.175 (1) (b), 71.26  
6            (1) (be), 77.54 (9a) (a), 100.45 (1) (dm), 106.16 (2), 106.16 (3), 230.03 (3), 238.10  
7            (1), 281.75 (4) (b) 3., 285.59 (1) (b) and 706.11 (1) (c) 2.; and **to create** 13.94 (1)  
8            (w), 19.42 (10) (qm), 20.498, 25.17 (3) (b) 14., 40.02 (54) (k), 66.0603 (1m) (a) 3v.,  
9            70.11 (38o), 71.05 (1) (c) 7m., 71.26 (1m) (p), 71.45 (1t) (o), 219.09 (1) (h), chapter  
10           235 and 600.01 (1) (b) 8m. of the statutes; **relating to:** creating the Wisconsin  
11           Renewable Energy Development Authority to participate in and guarantee

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- 1 certain energy-related loans, implement other energy-related programs, and  
2 make certain grants and making an appropriation.

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill creates the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority and authorizes WREDA to implement programs for developing renewable resources, reducing energy consumption, and improving energy efficiency. An authority is a public body created by state law that is not a state agency. Under this bill, the board of directors of WREDA consists of 11 members. Five members of the board are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate to four-year terms. One of those members must be a commercial lender and four must represent “eligible businesses,” as defined in the bill and discussed below. The other members are the following or their designees: the secretary of natural resources; the secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection; the chief executive officer of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation; the chair of the public service commission; the dean of the University of Wisconsin–Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; and the director of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. The board must appoint an executive director and, subject to a maximum limit, determine the executive director’s compensation.

The bill authorizes WREDA to issue bonds to carry out its functions, except that WREDA may generally have no more than \$500,000,000 in outstanding bonds at any time. WREDA’s bonds are not state debt. The bill creates an individual and corporate income tax exemption for interest on bonds issued by WREDA. Also, WREDA’s purchases are exempt from sales tax. The bill also makes an appropriation from the general fund to WREDA and requires WREDA to enter into an agreement with the secretary of administration for repaying the appropriation from any surpluses.

Because WREDA is not a state agency, numerous requirements that apply to state agencies do not apply to WREDA. However, the bill treats WREDA like a state agency for the purpose of specified requirements, including the following: 1) WREDA is subject to the open meetings laws; 2) WREDA is subject to auditing by the Legislative Audit Bureau; 3) WREDA is treated like a state agency for purposes of requirements regarding lobbying; 4) the code of ethics for public officials and employees applies to WREDA; and 5) employees of WREDA are considered state employees for the purposes of state retirement benefits and health insurance coverage. WREDA is also subject to the open records law, except that personal and financial information provided by a person seeking financial assistance from WREDA is confidential.

As discussed below, the bill allows WREDA to implement programs for participating in loans, guaranteeing loans, and making grants. The bill also allows WREDA to implement other programs.

***Loan participation.*** The bill allows WREDA to participate in loans made by lenders to eligible borrowers. The bill defines “eligible borrower” as an individual

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residing in this state, or a partnership or corporation operating in this state, who demonstrates a need for a loan for one of the following: 1) capital or operating expenses of an eligible business or 2) any expenses of an eligible project. An “eligible business” is defined as a commercial entity that either 1) produces energy, fuels, chemicals, or products primarily from renewable resources or agricultural, forestry, plant, or other biological materials or 2) provides services related to reducing energy consumption or improving energy efficiency. “Eligible project” is defined as a project for reducing energy consumption or improving energy efficiency of a commercial entity. In addition, the project must involve constructing any new plant, equipment, property, or facilities or extending, improving, or adding to an existing plant, equipment, property, or facilities. To qualify as an “eligible borrower,” a person must demonstrate the ability to repay a loan. In addition, if the borrower is an individual, he or she must be in compliance with any applicable child support and related requirements.

The bill limits WREDA’s participation in a loan to financing not more than 50 percent or \$25,000,000, whichever is less, of the principal of the loan. In addition, the lender must apply to WREDA for approval and enter into a participation agreement with WREDA. Also, WREDA must ensure that it obtains a security interest for the loan. The bill specifies other requirements, including requirements for collateral, length of terms, and fees, and allows WREDA to adopt guidelines and policies for loan participation.

***Loan guarantees.*** The bill allows WREDA to establish programs with lenders for guaranteeing repayment of loans for financing either 1) capital or operating expenses of eligible businesses or 2) expenses of eligible projects. “Eligible business” and “eligible project” are defined as described above. A loan is eligible for guarantee if the borrower does not meet the lender’s minimum standards of creditworthiness. Also, new or expanded business must result for the commercial entity whose eligible business or project is the subject of the loan. In addition, if the borrower is an individual, he or she must be in compliance with any applicable child support and related requirements. The bill allows WREDA to guarantee repayment of not more than 90 percent of the principal of a loan. Other requirements apply to interest rates, security interests, length and extension of terms, business insurance, origination fees, refinancing, and guarantee agreements between WREDA and lenders. Also, the total outstanding amount of all loans to a borrower may not exceed \$25,000,000 or a lesser amount determined by WREDA.

The bill establishes a Wisconsin clean and renewable energy reserve fund under WREDA’s control, which is used for the guarantees described above. The bill prohibits WREDA from using any other moneys for the guarantees. WREDA may deposit into the reserve fund an amount that it determines from the appropriation the bill makes to WREDA from the general fund. The reserve fund also consists of income from WREDA’s investment of reserve fund moneys, loan guarantee origination fees, and moneys received from other sources. In addition, the bill expresses the legislature’s expectation that it will make appropriations to meet demands for funds guaranteed by the reserve fund. The bill generally limits WREDA to guaranteeing no more than \$25,000,000 in total loans, except that the bill allows

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the Joint Committee on Finance to increase or decrease that limit. The bill also requires WREDA to ensure that the cash balance in the reserve fund is sufficient for the following purposes: 1) paying outstanding claims and 2) maintaining a ratio of \$1 of reserve funding to \$4.50 of total outstanding guarantees. If the cash balance exceeds the amount required for those purposes, the bill requires WREDA annually to transfer the excess to the general fund.

**Grant program.** The bill authorizes WREDA to make grants to eligible businesses and projects, as defined above, as well as to persons engaged in the commercialization of biological fuel, power, or products. WREDA must adopt guidelines for making the grants. The guidelines must provide for a committee to make determinations regarding grants, and the committee must consist of the secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection, the secretary of natural resources, and the chief executive officer of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. The guidelines may also allow the committee to make the grants on behalf of WREDA.

**Other programs.** The bill allows WREDA to implement the following to promote eligible businesses and projects, as defined above: 1) a revolving loan fund program to finance eligible businesses or projects; 2) an equity financing program for renewable energy generation businesses of agricultural producers; 3) a trading program for environmental credits related to clean and renewable energy production; 4) a technical assistance program for eligible businesses and certain community-based projects; and 5) a program for WREDA to obtain licenses and royalties on technologies developed with the assistance of WREDA.

**School and higher education funding.** The bill provides additional funding for special education aid for school districts, independent charter schools, cooperative educational service agencies, and county children with disabilities education boards, additional funding for the University of Wisconsin System under its general program operations appropriation, and additional funding for state aids for technical colleges for purposes of maintaining compliance with maintenance of effort requirements of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act and the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

Because this bill relates to an exemption from state or local taxes, it may be referred to the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions for a report to be printed as an appendix to the bill.

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

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

1           **SECTION 1.** 7.33 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1           7.33 (1) (c) “State agency” has the meaning given under s. 20.001 (1) and  
2 includes an authority created under subch. II of ch. 114 or ch. 231, 232, 233, 234, 235,  
3 or 237.

4           **SECTION 2.** 13.172 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

5           13.172 (1) In this section, “agency” means an office, department, agency,  
6 institution of higher education, association, society, or other body in state  
7 government created or authorized to be created by the constitution or any law, that  
8 is entitled to expend moneys appropriated by law, including the legislature and the  
9 courts, and any authority created in subch. II of ch. 114 or in ch. 231, 233, 234, 235,  
10 238, or 279.

11           **SECTION 3.** 13.62 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

12           13.62 (2) “Agency” means any board, commission, department, office, society,  
13 institution of higher education, council, or committee in the state government, or any  
14 authority created in subch. II of ch. 114 or in ch. 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 237, 238,  
15 or 279, except that the term does not include a council or committee of the legislature.

16           **SECTION 4.** 13.94 (1) (w) of the statutes is created to read:

17           13.94 (1) (w) Annually conduct a financial audit of the Wisconsin Renewable  
18 Energy Development Authority. The legislative audit bureau shall file a copy of each  
19 audit report under this paragraph with the distributees specified in par. (b).

20           **SECTION 5.** 13.94 (4) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

21           13.94 (4) (a) 1. Every state department, board, examining board, affiliated  
22 credentialing board, commission, independent agency, council or office in the  
23 executive branch of state government; all bodies created by the legislature in the  
24 legislative or judicial branch of state government; any public body corporate and  
25 politic created by the legislature including specifically the Fox River Navigational

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1 System Authority, the Lower Fox River Remediation Authority, the Wisconsin  
2 Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority, the  
3 Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, a professional baseball park district,  
4 a local professional football stadium district, a local cultural arts district and a  
5 long-term care district under s. 46.2895; every Wisconsin works agency under subch.  
6 III of ch. 49; every provider of medical assistance under subch. IV of ch. 49; technical  
7 college district boards; every county department under s. 51.42 or 51.437; every  
8 nonprofit corporation or cooperative or unincorporated cooperative association to  
9 which moneys are specifically appropriated by state law; and every corporation,  
10 institution, association or other organization which receives more than 50 percent  
11 of its annual budget from appropriations made by state law, including subgrantee or  
12 subcontractor recipients of such funds.

13 **SECTION 6.** 13.95 (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 **13.95 Legislative fiscal bureau.** (intro.) There is created a bureau to be  
15 known as the “Legislative Fiscal Bureau” headed by a director. The fiscal bureau  
16 shall be strictly nonpartisan and shall at all times observe the confidential nature  
17 of the research requests received by it; however, with the prior approval of the  
18 requester in each instance, the bureau may duplicate the results of its research for  
19 distribution. Subject to s. 230.35 (4) (a) and (f), the director or the director’s  
20 designated employees shall at all times, with or without notice, have access to all  
21 state agencies, the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority, the  
22 Wisconsin Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development  
23 Authority, the Lower Fox River Remediation Authority, the Wisconsin Economic  
24 Development Corporation, and the Fox River Navigational System Authority, and to

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1 any books, records, or other documents maintained by such agencies or authorities  
2 and relating to their expenditures, revenues, operations, and structure.

3 **SECTION 7.** 16.002 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 16.002 (2) “Departments” means constitutional offices, departments, and  
5 independent agencies and includes all societies, associations, and other agencies of  
6 state government for which appropriations are made by law, but not including  
7 authorities created in subch. II of ch. 114 or in ch. 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 237, 238,  
8 or 279.

9 **SECTION 8.** 16.004 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 16.004 (4) FREEDOM OF ACCESS. The secretary and such employees of the  
11 department as the secretary designates may enter into the offices of state agencies  
12 and authorities created under subch. II of ch. 114 and under chs. 231, 233, 234, 235,  
13 237, 238, and 279, and may examine their books and accounts and any other matter  
14 that in the secretary’s judgment should be examined and may interrogate the  
15 agency’s employees publicly or privately relative thereto.

16 **SECTION 9.** 16.004 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 16.004 (5) AGENCIES AND EMPLOYEES TO COOPERATE. All state agencies and  
18 authorities created under subch. II of ch. 114 and under chs. 231, 233, 234, 235, 237,  
19 238, and 279, and their officers and employees, shall cooperate with the secretary  
20 and shall comply with every request of the secretary relating to his or her functions.

21 **SECTION 10.** 16.004 (12) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 16.004 (12) (a) In this subsection, “state agency” means an association,  
23 authority, board, department, commission, independent agency, institution, office,  
24 society, or other body in state government created or authorized to be created by the  
25 constitution or any law, including the legislature, the office of the governor, and the

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1 courts, but excluding the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority,  
2 the Wisconsin Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development  
3 Authority, the Lower Fox River Remediation Authority, the Wisconsin Economic  
4 Development Corporation, and the Fox River Navigational System Authority.

5 **SECTION 11.** 16.01 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 16.01 (1) In this section, “agency” means any office, department, agency,  
7 institution of higher education, association, society or other body in state  
8 government created or authorized to be created by the constitution or any law which  
9 is entitled to expend moneys appropriated by law, including the legislature and the  
10 courts, and any authority created under subch. II of ch. 114 or ch. 231, 233 ~~or~~, 234,  
11 or 235.

12 **SECTION 12.** 16.045 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 16.045 (1) (a) “Agency” means an office, department, independent agency,  
14 institution of higher education, association, society, or other body in state  
15 government created or authorized to be created by the constitution or any law, that  
16 is entitled to expend moneys appropriated by law, including the legislature and the  
17 courts, but not including an authority created in subch. II of ch. 114 or in ch. 231, 232,  
18 233, 234, 235, 237, 238, or 279.

19 **SECTION 13.** 16.41 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 16.41 (4) In this section, “authority” means a body created under subch. II of  
21 ch. 114 or under ch. 231, 233, 234, 235, 237, 238, or 279.

22 **SECTION 14.** 16.417 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

23 16.417 (1) (b) “Authority” means a body created under subch. II of ch. 114 or  
24 ch. 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 237, 238, or 279.

25 **SECTION 15.** 16.52 (7) of the statutes is amended to read:



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1           16.52 (7) PETTY CASH ACCOUNT. With the approval of the secretary, each agency  
2 that is authorized to maintain a contingent fund under s. 20.920 may establish a  
3 petty cash account from its contingent fund. The procedure for operation and  
4 maintenance of petty cash accounts and the character of expenditures therefrom  
5 shall be prescribed by the secretary. In this subsection, “agency” means an office,  
6 department, independent agency, institution of higher education, association,  
7 society, or other body in state government created or authorized to be created by the  
8 constitution or any law, that is entitled to expend moneys appropriated by law,  
9 including the legislature and the courts, but not including an authority created in  
10 subch. II of ch. 114 or in ch. 231, 233, 234, 235, 237, 238, or 279.

11           **SECTION 16.** 16.528 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

12           16.528 (1) (a) “Agency” means an office, department, independent agency,  
13 institution of higher education, association, society, or other body in state  
14 government created or authorized to be created by the constitution or any law, that  
15 is entitled to expend moneys appropriated by law, including the legislature and the  
16 courts, but not including an authority created in subch. II of ch. 114 or in ch. 231, 233,  
17 234, 235, 237, 238, or 279.

18           **SECTION 17.** 16.53 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

19           16.53 (2) IMPROPER INVOICES. If an agency receives an improperly completed  
20 invoice, the agency shall notify the sender of the invoice within 10 working days after  
21 it receives the invoice of the reason it is improperly completed. In this subsection,  
22 “agency” means an office, department, independent agency, institution of higher  
23 education, association, society, or other body in state government created or  
24 authorized to be created by the constitution or any law, that is entitled to expend  
25 moneys appropriated by law, including the legislature and the courts, but not

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1 including an authority created in subch. II of ch. 114 or in ch. 231, 233, 234, 235, 237,  
2 238, or 279.

3 **SECTION 18.** 16.54 (9) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

4 16.54 (9) (a) 1. "Agency" means an office, department, independent agency,  
5 institution of higher education, association, society or other body in state  
6 government created or authorized to be created by the constitution or any law, which  
7 is entitled to expend moneys appropriated by law, including the legislature and the  
8 courts, but not including an authority created in subch. II of ch. 114 or in ch. 231, 233,  
9 234, 235, 237, 238, or 279.

10 **SECTION 19.** 16.70 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 16.70 (2) "Authority" means a body created under subch. II of ch. 114 or under  
12 ch. 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 237, or 279.

13 **SECTION 20.** 16.75 (1m) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 16.75 (1m) The department shall award each order or contract for materials,  
15 supplies or equipment on the basis of life cycle cost estimates, whenever such action  
16 is appropriate. Each authority other than the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and  
17 Clinics Authority, the Lower Fox River Remediation Authority, and the Wisconsin  
18 Aerospace Authority, and the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority  
19 shall award each order or contract for materials, supplies or equipment on the basis  
20 of life cycle cost estimates, whenever such action is appropriate. The terms,  
21 conditions and evaluation criteria to be applied shall be incorporated in the  
22 solicitation of bids or proposals. The life cycle cost formula may include, but is not  
23 limited to, the applicable costs of energy efficiency, acquisition and conversion,  
24 money, transportation, warehousing and distribution, training, operation and  
25 maintenance and disposition or resale. The department shall prepare documents

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1 containing technical guidance for the development and use of life cycle cost  
2 estimates, and shall make the documents available to local governmental units.

3 **SECTION 21.** 16.765 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 16.765 (1) Contracting agencies, the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and  
5 Clinics Authority, the Fox River Navigational System Authority, the Wisconsin  
6 Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority, the  
7 Lower Fox River Remediation Authority, the Wisconsin Economic Development  
8 Corporation, and the Bradley Center Sports and Entertainment Corporation shall  
9 include in all contracts executed by them a provision obligating the contractor not  
10 to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age,  
11 race, religion, color, handicap, sex, physical condition, developmental disability as  
12 defined in s. 51.01 (5), sexual orientation as defined in s. 111.32 (13m), or national  
13 origin and, except with respect to sexual orientation, obligating the contractor to take  
14 affirmative action to ensure equal employment opportunities.

15 **SECTION 22.** 16.765 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 16.765 (2) Contracting agencies, the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and  
17 Clinics Authority, the Fox River Navigational System Authority, the Wisconsin  
18 Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority, the  
19 Lower Fox River Remediation Authority, the Wisconsin Economic Development  
20 Corporation, and the Bradley Center Sports and Entertainment Corporation shall  
21 include the following provision in every contract executed by them: "In connection  
22 with the performance of work under this contract, the contractor agrees not to  
23 discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race,  
24 religion, color, handicap, sex, physical condition, developmental disability as defined  
25 in s. 51.01 (5), sexual orientation or national origin. This provision shall include, but

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1 not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer;  
2 recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other  
3 forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. Except  
4 with respect to sexual orientation, the contractor further agrees to take affirmative  
5 action to ensure equal employment opportunities. The contractor agrees to post in  
6 conspicuous places, available for employees and applicants for employment, notices  
7 to be provided by the contracting officer setting forth the provisions of the  
8 nondiscrimination clause”.

9 **SECTION 23.** 16.765 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 16.765 (5) The head of each contracting agency and the boards of directors of  
11 the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority, the Fox River  
12 Navigational System Authority, the Wisconsin Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin  
13 Renewable Energy Development Authority, the Lower Fox River Remediation  
14 Authority, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, and the Bradley  
15 Center Sports and Entertainment Corporation shall be primarily responsible for  
16 obtaining compliance by any contractor with the nondiscrimination and affirmative  
17 action provisions prescribed by this section, according to procedures recommended  
18 by the department. The department shall make recommendations to the contracting  
19 agencies and the boards of directors of the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and  
20 Clinics Authority, the Fox River Navigational System Authority, the Wisconsin  
21 Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority, the  
22 Lower Fox River Remediation Authority, the Wisconsin Economic Development  
23 Corporation, and the Bradley Center Sports and Entertainment Corporation for  
24 improving and making more effective the nondiscrimination and affirmative action

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1 provisions of contracts. The department shall promulgate such rules as may be  
2 necessary for the performance of its functions under this section.

3 **SECTION 24.** 16.765 (6) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 16.765 (6) The department may receive complaints of alleged violations of the  
5 nondiscrimination provisions of such contracts. The department shall investigate  
6 and determine whether a violation of this section has occurred. The department may  
7 delegate this authority to the contracting agency, the University of Wisconsin  
8 Hospitals and Clinics Authority, the Fox River Navigational System Authority, the  
9 Wisconsin Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development  
10 Authority, the Lower Fox River Remediation Authority, the Wisconsin Economic  
11 Development Corporation, or the Bradley Center Sports and Entertainment  
12 Corporation for processing in accordance with the department's procedures.

13 **SECTION 25.** 16.765 (7) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 16.765 (7) (intro.) When a violation of this section has been determined by the  
15 department, the contracting agency, the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and  
16 Clinics Authority, the Fox River Navigational System Authority, the Wisconsin  
17 Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority, the  
18 Lower Fox River Remediation Authority, the Wisconsin Economic Development  
19 Corporation, or the Bradley Center Sports and Entertainment Corporation, the  
20 contracting agency, the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority, the  
21 Fox River Navigational System Authority, the Wisconsin Aerospace Authority, the  
22 Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority, the Lower Fox River  
23 Remediation Authority, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, or the  
24 Bradley Center Sports and Entertainment Corporation shall:

25 **SECTION 26.** 16.765 (7) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1           16.765 (7) (d) Direct the violating party to take immediate steps to prevent  
2 further violations of this section and to report its corrective action to the contracting  
3 agency, the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority, the Fox River  
4 Navigational System Authority, the Wisconsin Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin  
5 Renewable Energy Development Authority, the Lower Fox River Remediation  
6 Authority, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, or the Bradley Center  
7 Sports and Entertainment Corporation.

8           **SECTION 27.** 16.765 (8) of the statutes is amended to read:

9           16.765 (8) If further violations of this section are committed during the term  
10 of the contract, the contracting agency, the Fox River Navigational System Authority,  
11 the Wisconsin Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development  
12 Authority, the Lower Fox River Remediation Authority, the Wisconsin Economic  
13 Development Corporation, or the Bradley Center Sports and Entertainment  
14 Corporation may permit the violating party to complete the contract, after complying  
15 with this section, but thereafter the contracting agency, the Fox River Navigational  
16 System Authority, the Wisconsin Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin Renewable  
17 Energy Development Authority, the Lower Fox River Remediation Authority, the  
18 Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, or the Bradley Center Sports and  
19 Entertainment Corporation shall request the department to place the name of the  
20 party on the ineligible list for state contracts, or the contracting agency, the Fox River  
21 Navigational System Authority, the Wisconsin Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin  
22 Renewable Energy Development Authority, the Lower Fox River Remediation  
23 Authority, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, or the Bradley Center  
24 Sports and Entertainment Corporation may terminate the contract without liability

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1 for the uncompleted portion or any materials or services purchased or paid for by the  
2 contracting party for use in completing the contract.

3 **SECTION 28.** 16.838 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 16.838 (1) (b) “Authority” means a body created under subch. II of ch. 114 or  
5 ch. 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, or 237.

6 **SECTION 29.** 16.85 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 16.85 (2) To furnish engineering, architectural, project management, and other  
8 building construction services whenever requisitions therefor are presented to the  
9 department by any agency. The department may deposit moneys received from the  
10 provision of these services in the account under s. 20.505 (1) (kc) or in the general  
11 fund as general purpose revenue — earned. In this subsection, “agency” means an  
12 office, department, independent agency, institution of higher education, association,  
13 society, or other body in state government created or authorized to be created by the  
14 constitution or any law, which is entitled to expend moneys appropriated by law,  
15 including the legislature and the courts, but not including an authority created in  
16 subch. II of ch. 114 or in ch. 231, 233, 234, 235, 237, 238, or 279.

17 **SECTION 30.** 16.865 (8) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 16.865 (8) Annually in each fiscal year, allocate as a charge to each agency a  
19 proportionate share of the estimated costs attributable to programs administered by  
20 the agency to be paid from the appropriation under s. 20.505 (2) (k). The department  
21 may charge premiums to agencies to finance costs under this subsection and pay the  
22 costs from the appropriation on an actual basis. The department shall deposit all  
23 collections under this subsection in the appropriation account under s. 20.505 (2) (k).  
24 Costs assessed under this subsection may include judgments, investigative and  
25 adjustment fees, data processing and staff support costs, program administration

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1 costs, litigation costs, and the cost of insurance contracts under sub. (5). In this  
2 subsection, “agency” means an office, department, independent agency, institution  
3 of higher education, association, society, or other body in state government created  
4 or authorized to be created by the constitution or any law, that is entitled to expend  
5 moneys appropriated by law, including the legislature and the courts, but not  
6 including an authority created in subch. II of ch. 114 or in ch. 231, 232, 233, 234, 235,  
7 237, 238, or 279.

8 **SECTION 31.** 19.42 (10) (qm) of the statutes is created to read:

9 19.42 (10) (qm) The executive director and members of the board of directors  
10 of the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority.

11 **SECTION 32.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place,  
12 insert the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

**2021-22      2022-23**

13 **20.498 Wisconsin Renewable Energy**  
14 **Development Authority**

15 (1) AUTHORITY OPERATIONS

16 (a) General program operations      GPR      C      1,400,000      -0-

17 **SECTION 33.** 20.498 of the statutes is created to read:

18 **20.498 Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority.** There is  
19 appropriated to the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority for the  
20 following program:

21 (1) AUTHORITY OPERATIONS. (a) *General program operations.* As a continuing  
22 appropriation, the amounts in the schedule for the purposes of ch. 235.

23 **SECTION 34.** 23.175 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:



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1           23.175 (1) (b) “State agency” means any office, department, agency, institution  
2 of higher education, association, society or other body in state government created  
3 or authorized to be created by the constitution or any law which is entitled to expend  
4 moneys appropriated by law, including any authority created under subch. II of ch.  
5 114 or ch. 231, 233, 234, 235, or 237 but not including the legislature or the courts.

6           **SECTION 35.** 25.17 (3) (b) 14. of the statutes is created to read:

7           25.17 (3) (b) 14. Bonds issued by the Wisconsin Renewable Energy  
8 Development Authority.

9           **SECTION 36.** 40.02 (54) (k) of the statutes is created to read:

10          40.02 (54) (k) The Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority.

11          **SECTION 37.** 66.0603 (1m) (a) 3v. of the statutes is created to read:

12          66.0603 (1m) (a) 3v. Bonds issued by the Wisconsin Renewable Energy  
13 Development Authority.

14          **SECTION 38.** 70.11 (38o) of the statutes is created to read:

15          70.11 (38o) WISCONSIN RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.  
16 Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 70.11 (intro.) that relate to leased property or  
17 that impose other limitations, all property owned or leased by the Wisconsin  
18 Renewable Energy Development Authority, provided that use of the property is  
19 primarily related to the purposes of the authority.

20          **SECTION 39.** 71.05 (1) (c) 7m. of the statutes is created to read:

21          71.05 (1) (c) 7m. The Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority.

22          **SECTION 40.** 71.26 (1) (be) of the statutes is amended to read:

23          71.26 (1) (be) *Certain authorities.* Income of the University of Wisconsin  
24 Hospitals and Clinics Authority, of the Fox River Navigational System Authority, of

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1 the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, and of the Wisconsin Aerospace  
2 Authority, and of the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority.

3 **SECTION 41.** 71.26 (1m) (p) of the statutes is created to read:

4 71.26 (1m) (p) Those issued under s. 235.06.

5 **SECTION 42.** 71.45 (1t) (o) of the statutes is created to read:

6 71.45 (1t) (o) Those issued under s. 235.06.

7 **SECTION 43.** 77.54 (9a) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 77.54 (9a) (a) This state or any agency thereof, the University of Wisconsin  
9 Hospitals and Clinics Authority, the Wisconsin Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin  
10 Renewable Energy Development Authority, the Wisconsin Economic Development  
11 Corporation, and the Fox River Navigational System Authority.

12 **SECTION 44.** 100.45 (1) (dm) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 100.45 (1) (dm) "State agency" means any office, department, agency,  
14 institution of higher education, association, society, or other body in state  
15 government created or authorized to be created by the constitution or any law which  
16 is entitled to expend moneys appropriated by law, including the legislature and the  
17 courts, the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, the Bradley  
18 Center Sports and Entertainment Corporation, the University of Wisconsin  
19 Hospitals and Clinics Authority, the Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities  
20 Authority, the Wisconsin Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin Renewable Energy  
21 Development Authority, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, and the  
22 Fox River Navigational System Authority.

23 **SECTION 45.** 106.16 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 106.16 (2) Any company that receives a loan or grant from a state agency or  
25 an authority under ch. 231 ~~or~~, 234, or 235 shall notify the department and the local

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1 workforce development board established under 29 USC 2832, of any position in the  
2 company that is related to the project for which the grant or loan is received to be  
3 filled in this state within one year after receipt of the loan or grant. The company  
4 shall provide this notice at least 2 weeks prior to advertising the position.

5 **SECTION 46.** 106.16 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 106.16 (3) A state agency or an authority under ch. 231 ~~or~~, 234, or 235 shall  
7 notify the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation if it makes a loan or grant  
8 to a company.

9 **SECTION 47.** 219.09 (1) (h) of the statutes is created to read:

10 219.09 (1) (h) The Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority.

11 **SECTION 48.** 230.03 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 230.03 (3) “Agency” means any board, commission, committee, council, or  
13 department in state government or a unit thereof created by the constitution or  
14 statutes if such board, commission, committee, council, department, unit, or the  
15 head thereof, is authorized to appoint subordinate staff by the constitution or  
16 statute, except the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, a  
17 legislative or judicial board, commission, committee, council, department, or unit  
18 thereof or an authority created under subch. II of ch. 114 or under ch. 231, 232, 233,  
19 234, 235, 237, 238, or 279. “Agency” does not mean any local unit of government or  
20 body within one or more local units of government that is created by law or by action  
21 of one or more local units of government.

22 **SECTION 49.** Chapter 235 of the statutes is created to read:

23 **CHAPTER 235**

24 **WISCONSIN RENEWABLE ENERGY**

25 **DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

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1           **235.01 Definitions.** In this chapter:

2           (1) “Authority” means the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development  
3 Authority.

4           (2) “Board” means the board of directors of the authority.

5           (3) “Bond” means a bond, note, or other obligation of the authority issued under  
6 this chapter, including a refunding bond.

7           (4) “Bond resolution” means a resolution of the board authorizing the issuance  
8 of, or providing terms and conditions related to, bonds and includes, when  
9 appropriate, any trust agreement, trust indenture, indenture of mortgage, or deed  
10 of trust providing terms and conditions for the bonds.

11           (5) “Eligible business” means a commercial entity that does any of the  
12 following:

13           (a) Produces energy, fuels, chemicals, or products primarily from renewable  
14 resources or agricultural, forestry, plant, or other biological materials.

15           (b) Provides services related to reducing energy consumption or improving  
16 energy efficiency.

17           (6) “Eligible project” means a project of a commercial entity to construct any  
18 new plant, equipment, property, or facilities, or extend, improve, or add to any  
19 existing plant, equipment, property, or facilities, for the purpose of reducing energy  
20 consumption or improving energy efficiency of the commercial entity.

21           (7) “Lender” does not include a seller under a land contract.

22           (8) “Renewable resource” has the meaning given in s. 196.378 (1) (h).

23           **235.02 Creation and organization.** (1) (a) There is created a public body  
24 politic and corporate to be known as the “Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development  
25 Authority.” The board of the authority shall consist of the following members:

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- 1           1. Four persons representing eligible businesses.
- 2           2. One commercial lender.
- 3           3. The secretary of natural resources or his or her designee.
- 4           4. The secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection or his or her  
5           designee.
- 6           5. The chief executive officer of the Wisconsin Economic Development  
7           Corporation or his or her designee.
- 8           6. The chairperson of the public service commission or his or her designee.
- 9           7. The dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences of the University  
10          of Wisconsin-Madison or his or her designee.
- 11          8. The director of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation or his or her  
12          designee.
- 13          (b) The members under par. (a) 1. and 2. shall be nominated by the governor,  
14          and with the advice and consent of the senate appointed, for 4-year terms. Except  
15          for the initial members under par. (a) 1. and 2., before nominating the members  
16          under par. (a) 1. and 2., the governor shall obtain and consider the board's  
17          recommendations for nominees.
- 18          (c) Members of the board shall be residents of this state.
- 19          (d) The terms of the members appointed under par. (a) 1. and 2. expire on July  
20          1. Each member's appointment remains in effect until a successor is appointed.
- 21          **(2)** The board shall appoint an executive director who may not be a member of  
22          the board and who shall serve at the pleasure of the board. The board shall determine  
23          the compensation of the executive director, except that the compensation of the  
24          executive director may not exceed the maximum of the salary range established  
25          under s. 20.923 (1) for positions assigned to executive salary group 4, and the

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1 compensation of each other employee of the authority may not exceed the maximum  
2 of the salary range established under s. 20.923 (1) for positions assigned to executive  
3 salary group 3. The executive director or another person designated by resolution  
4 of the board shall keep a record of the proceedings of the authority and shall be  
5 custodian of all books, documents, and papers filed with the authority, the minute  
6 book or journal of the authority, and its official seal. The executive director, or other  
7 person, may cause copies to be made of all minutes and other records and documents  
8 of the authority and may give certificates under the official seal of the authority to  
9 the effect that the copies are true copies, and all persons dealing with the authority  
10 may rely upon the certificates.

11 (3) Six members of the board constitute a quorum. The affirmative vote of a  
12 majority of all of the members of the board is necessary for any action taken by the  
13 authority. A vacancy in the membership of the board does not impair the right of a  
14 quorum to exercise all of the rights and perform all of the duties of the authority. All  
15 meetings of the board are subject to subch. V of ch. 19. Resolutions of the authority  
16 need not be published or posted. The board may delegate by resolution to one or more  
17 of its members or the executive director the powers and duties that it considers  
18 proper.

19 (4) The members of the board shall receive no compensation for the  
20 performance of their duties as members, but each member shall be reimbursed for  
21 the member's actual and necessary expenses while engaged in the performance of the  
22 member's duties.

23 (5) No cause of action of any nature may arise against and no civil liability may  
24 be imposed upon a member of the board for any act or omission in the performance

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1 of his or her powers and duties under this chapter, unless the person asserting  
2 liability proves that the act or omission constitutes willful misconduct.

3 **235.03 Powers of authority.** The authority has all of the powers necessary  
4 or convenient to carry out the purposes and provisions of this chapter. In addition  
5 to all other powers granted by this chapter, the authority may do any of the following:

6 (1) Adopt bylaws, policies, and procedures for the regulation of its affairs and  
7 the conduct of its business.

8 (2) Sue and be sued.

9 (3) Hire employees, define their duties, and fix their rate of compensation,  
10 subject to s. 235.02 (2).

11 (4) Have a seal and alter the seal at pleasure, have perpetual existence, and  
12 maintain an office.

13 (5) Appoint any technical or professional advisory committee that the  
14 authority finds necessary to assist the authority in exercising its duties and powers,  
15 define the duties of any committee, and provide reimbursement for the expenses of  
16 any committee.

17 (6) Enter into contracts with 3rd parties as are necessary for the conduct of its  
18 business.

19 (7) Accept gifts, grants, and other funding for the conduct of its business.

20 (8) Charge fees for services that the authority provides.

21 (9) Procure insurance against any loss in connection with its assets and procure  
22 insurance on its debt obligations.

23 **235.04 Political activities.** (1) No employee of the authority may directly or  
24 indirectly solicit or receive subscriptions or contributions for any partisan political  
25 party or any political purpose while engaged in his or her official duties as an

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1 employee. No employee of the authority may engage in any form of political activity  
2 calculated to favor or improve the chances of any political party or any person seeking  
3 or attempting to hold partisan political office while engaged in his or her official  
4 duties as an employee or engage in any political activity while not engaged in his or  
5 her official duties as an employee to such an extent that the person's efficiency during  
6 working hours will be impaired or that he or she will be tardy or absent from work.  
7 Any violation of this subsection is adequate grounds for dismissal.

8 (2) If an employee of the authority declares an intention to run for partisan  
9 political office, the employee shall be placed on a leave of absence for the duration  
10 of the election campaign and if elected shall no longer be employed by the authority  
11 on assuming the duties and responsibilities of such office.

12 (3) An employee of the authority may be granted, by the executive director, a  
13 leave of absence to participate in partisan political campaigning.

14 (4) Persons on leaves of absence under sub. (2) or (3) are not subject to the  
15 restrictions of sub. (1), except as they apply to the solicitation of assistance,  
16 subscription, or support from any other employee in the authority.

17 **235.05 Cooperation.** To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the  
18 authority, the authority shall use staff and other resources of state agencies,  
19 including the University of Wisconsin System, and state agencies shall, to the extent  
20 possible given their staff and other resources, provide assistance to the authority.

21 **235.06 Issuance of bonds.** (1) The authority may issue bonds for any  
22 corporate purpose. All bonds are negotiable for all purposes, notwithstanding their  
23 payment from a limited source.

24 (2) The bonds of each issue shall be payable from sources specified in the bond  
25 resolution under which the bonds are issued.



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1           **(3)** The authority may not issue bonds unless the issuance is first authorized  
2           by a bond resolution. Bonds shall bear the dates, mature at the times not exceeding  
3           30 years from their dates of issue, bear interest at the rates, be payable at the times,  
4           be in the denominations, be in the form, carry the registration and conversion  
5           privileges, be executed in the manner, be payable in lawful money of the United  
6           States at the places, and be subject to the terms of redemption, that the bond  
7           resolution provides. The bonds shall be executed by the manual or facsimile  
8           signatures of the officers of the authority designated by the board. The bonds may  
9           be sold at public or private sale at the price, in the manner, and at the time  
10          determined by the board. Pending preparation of definitive bonds, the authority may  
11          issue interim receipts or certificates that the authority shall exchange for the  
12          definitive bonds.

13          **(4)** Any bond resolution may contain provisions that shall be a part of the  
14          contract with the holders of the bonds that are authorized by the bond resolution,  
15          regarding any of the following:

16               (a) Pledging or assigning specified assets or revenues of the authority.

17               (b) Setting aside reserves or sinking funds, and the regulation, investment, and  
18          disposition of these funds.

19               (c) Limitations on the purpose to which or the investments in which the  
20          proceeds of the sale of any issue of bonds may be applied.

21               (d) Limitations on the issuance of additional bonds, the terms upon which  
22          additional bonds may be issued and secured, and the terms upon which additional  
23          bonds may rank on a parity with, or be subordinate or superior to, the bonds  
24          authorized by the bond resolution.

25               (e) Funding, refunding, advance refunding, or purchasing outstanding bonds.

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1 (f) Procedures by which the terms of any contract with bondholders may be  
2 amended, the amount of bonds the holders of which must consent to the amendment,  
3 and the manner in which this consent may be given.

4 (g) Defining the acts or omissions to act that constitute a default in the duties  
5 of the authority to the bondholders, and providing the rights and remedies of the  
6 bondholders in the event of a default.

7 (h) Other matters relating to the bonds that the board considers desirable.

8 (5) Neither the members of the board nor any person executing the bonds is  
9 liable personally on the bonds or subject to any personal liability or accountability  
10 by reason of the issuance of the bonds, unless the personal liability or accountability  
11 is the result of willful misconduct.

12 **235.07 Bond security.** The authority may secure any bonds issued under this  
13 chapter by a trust agreement, trust indenture, indenture of mortgage, or deed of  
14 trust by and between the authority and one or more corporate trustees. The bond  
15 resolution providing for the issuance of bonds so secured shall pledge some or all of  
16 the revenues to be received by the authority and may contain provisions for  
17 protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of the bondholders that are  
18 reasonable and proper and not in violation of law. A bond resolution may contain any  
19 other provisions that are determined by the board to be reasonable and proper for  
20 the security of the bondholders.

21 **235.08 Bonds not public debt.** (1) The state is not liable on bonds of the  
22 authority, and the bonds are not a debt of the state. Each bond of the authority shall  
23 contain a statement to this effect on the face of the bond. The issuance of bonds under  
24 this chapter does not, directly, indirectly, or contingently, obligate the state or any  
25 political subdivision of the state to levy any tax or to make any appropriation for

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1 payment of the bonds. Nothing in this section prevents the authority from pledging  
2 its full faith and credit to the payment of bonds issued under this chapter.

3 (2) Nothing in this chapter authorizes the authority to create a debt of the state,  
4 and all bonds issued by the authority under this chapter are payable, and shall state  
5 that they are payable, solely from the funds pledged for their payment in accordance  
6 with the bond resolution authorizing their issuance or in any trust indenture or deed  
7 of trust executed as security for the bonds. The state is not liable for the payment  
8 of the principal of or interest on any bonds of the authority or for the performance  
9 of any pledge, mortgage, obligation, or agreement which may be undertaken by the  
10 authority. The breach of any pledge, mortgage, obligation, or agreement undertaken  
11 by the authority does not impose any pecuniary liability upon the state or any charge  
12 upon its general credit or against its taxing power.

13 **235.09 State pledge.** The state pledges to and agrees with the holders of  
14 bonds, and persons that enter into contracts with the authority under this chapter,  
15 that the state will not limit or alter the rights vested in the authority by this chapter  
16 before the authority has fully met and discharged the bonds, and any interest due  
17 on the bonds, and has fully performed its contracts, unless adequate provision is  
18 made by law for the protection of the bondholders or those entering into contracts  
19 with the authority.

20 **235.10 Refunding bonds.** (1) The authority may issue bonds to fund or  
21 refund any outstanding bond, including the payment of any redemption premium on  
22 the outstanding bond and any interest accrued or to accrue to the earliest or any  
23 subsequent date of redemption, purchase, or maturity.

24 (2) The authority may apply the proceeds of any bond issued to fund or refund  
25 any outstanding bond to purchase, retire at maturity, or redeem any outstanding

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1 bond. The authority may, pending application, place the proceeds in escrow to be  
2 applied to the purchase, retirement at maturity, or redemption of any outstanding  
3 bond at any time.

4 **235.11 Limit on amount of outstanding bonds.** The authority may not  
5 have outstanding at any one time bonds in an aggregate principal amount exceeding  
6 \$500,000,000, excluding bonds issued to refund outstanding bonds.

7 **235.12 Annual reports. (1)** The authority shall keep an accurate account of  
8 all of its activities and of all of its receipts and expenditures and shall annually in  
9 January make a report of its activities, receipts, and expenditures to the governor  
10 and the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution to the legislature  
11 under s. 13.172 (2). The reports shall estimate the number of jobs created or  
12 maintained as a result of the authority's activities as well as the fiscal impacts and  
13 savings resulting from those activities. The reporting of receipts and expenditures  
14 shall be in a form approved by the state auditor. The state auditor may investigate  
15 the affairs of the authority, may examine the properties and records of the authority,  
16 and may prescribe methods of accounting and the rendering of periodical reports in  
17 relation to activities undertaken by the authority.

18 **(2)** Annually on July 1, the authority shall file with the department of  
19 administration and the joint legislative council a complete and current listing of all  
20 forms, reports, and papers required by the authority to be completed by any person,  
21 other than a governmental body, as a condition of obtaining the approval of the  
22 authority or for any other reason. The authority shall attach a blank copy of each  
23 such form, report, or paper to the listing.

24 **235.13 Confidentiality of certain records.** The authority shall maintain  
25 the confidentiality of records or portions of records consisting of personal or financial

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1 information provided by a person seeking a loan, loan guarantee, or other financial  
2 assistance from the authority.

3 **235.14 Participation in loans. (1) DEFINITION.** In this section, “eligible  
4 borrower” means a person to which all of the following apply:

5 (a) The person is an individual who resides in this state or a partnership or  
6 corporation that operates in this state.

7 (b) The person demonstrates a need for a loan for one of the following:

8 1. The capital, operating expenses, or both of an eligible business.

9 2. Any expenses of an eligible project.

10 (c) The person demonstrates an ability to repay the loan described in par. (b).

11 (d) If the person is an individual, the individual’s name does not appear, and  
12 if the person is a corporation, no shareholder’s name appears, and, if the person is  
13 a partnership, no partner’s name appears on the statewide support lien docket under  
14 s. 49.854 (2) (b) or, if the name of the individual, a shareholder, or a partner appears  
15 on that docket, the individual, shareholder, or partner provides to the authority a  
16 payment agreement that has been approved by the county child support agency  
17 under s. 59.53 (5) and that is consistent with rules promulgated under s. 49.858 (2)  
18 (a).

19 (e) The person satisfies any other requirements prescribed by the authority.

20 **(2) PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH LENDER.** A lender seeking to make a loan in  
21 which the authority may participate under this section shall apply to the authority  
22 for approval. If the lender is approved, the lender and the authority shall enter into  
23 a participation agreement that shall provide for the contractual obligations of the  
24 lender and the authority with respect to any loan transaction in which the authority

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1 participates, the terms and conditions of loans in which the authority participates,  
2 and other matters related to the lender's involvement in loans under this section.

3 **(3) PARTICIPATION IN LOANS.** (a) *In general.* The authority may participate, to  
4 the extent provided in this subsection, in a loan to an eligible borrower made by a  
5 lender with whom the authority enters into a participation agreement under sub. (2).  
6 The authority may impose repayment or other terms for its portion of the loan that  
7 are different from the lender's loan terms. The authority shall ensure that it obtains  
8 a security interest for the loan.

9 (b) *Loans.* The authority may participate in a loan under par. (a) if all of the  
10 following apply:

11 1. The collateral for the loan includes physical plant, equipment, machinery,  
12 or other assets.

13 2. The loan does not exceed 80 percent of the appraised value of the collateral  
14 for the loan.

15 3. The term of the loan does not exceed 10 years or, for the acquisition of land  
16 or facilities, does not exceed 20 years.

17 (c) *Maximum amount.* The authority may not finance more than 50 percent or  
18 \$25,000,000, whichever is less, of the principal of any loan under par. (a).

19 **(4) FEES.** The authority shall charge a fee for assistance provided under this  
20 section to cover the costs of administering this section, including legal fees.

21 **(5) GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES.** The authority shall adopt guidelines and  
22 establish procedures for administering this section, including guidelines or  
23 procedures related to all of the following:

24 (a) Application procedures for eligible borrowers and for lenders seeking to  
25 make loans in which the authority participates under this section.

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1 (b) Approval requirements for lenders and additional eligibility requirements  
2 for eligible borrowers.

3 (c) The terms of participation agreements under sub. (2).

4 (d) Repayment and security interest requirements.

5 (e) Procedural requirements for the authority's participation in loans.

6 (f) Auditing, inspection, and reporting requirements.

7 (g) Any other relevant matters.

8 **235.15 Loan guarantees. (1) DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

9 (a) "Guaranteed loan" means a loan that is guaranteed by the authority under  
10 this section.

11 (b) "Participating lender" means a lender that has entered into a guarantee  
12 agreement with the authority under s. 235.16 (2) (a).

13 **(2) ELIGIBLE LOANS.** If the authority establishes a loan guarantee program  
14 under s. 235.16 (2) (a) with a participating lender, the authority may guarantee  
15 collection from the Wisconsin clean and renewable energy reserve fund for a loan to  
16 a borrower under the program if all of the following apply:

17 (a) The loan is for financing one of the following:

18 1. The capital, operating expenses, or both of an eligible business.

19 2. Any expenses of an eligible project.

20 (b) The total outstanding principal amounts of all loans to the borrower that  
21 are guaranteed under this section do not exceed an amount set annually by the  
22 authority that may not exceed \$25,000,000.

23 (c) The rate of interest on the loan, including any origination fees or other  
24 charges relating to the loan, does not exceed a rate determined by the authority after  
25 considering the conditions of the financial market.

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1 (d) The participating lender obtains a security interest in physical plant,  
2 equipment, machinery, or other assets.

3 (e) Unless waived by the authority, the borrower procures a business insurance  
4 policy that is approved by the authority and the proceeds of that policy are payable  
5 to the participating lender.

6 (f) Unless extended by the authority, the loan term does not extend beyond 10  
7 years after the date that the participating lender disburses the loan or, if the loan is  
8 for the acquisition of land or facilities, the loan term does not extend beyond 20 years  
9 after the date that the participating lender disburses the loan.

10 (g) The proceeds of the loan are not applied to the outstanding balance of any  
11 other loan, except that, subject to sub. (4), the proceeds may be used to refinance a  
12 loan under this section.

13 (h) If the loan is for an eligible business, the loan results in a new eligible  
14 business, an expansion of an eligible business, or a new process, product, or service  
15 by an eligible business.

16 (i) If the loan is for an eligible project of a commercial entity, the loan results  
17 in the creation or expansion of business for the commercial entity.

18 (j) The borrower does not meet the participating lender's minimum standards  
19 of creditworthiness to receive the loan in the normal course of the participating  
20 lender's business.

21 (k) The participating lender considers the borrower's assets, cash flow, and  
22 managerial ability sufficient to preclude voluntary or involuntary liquidation for the  
23 loan term granted by the participating lender.

24 (L) The participating lender agrees to the percentage of guarantee established  
25 for the loan by the authority.



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1 (m) If the eligible business that is financed by the loan is owned by an  
2 individual, or if the eligible project that is financed by the loan is for a plant,  
3 equipment, property, or facilities owned by an individual, the individual's name does  
4 not appear, and if the person is a corporation, no shareholder's name appears, and,  
5 if the person is a partnership, no partner's name appears, on the statewide support  
6 lien docket under s. 49.854 (2) (b) or, if the name of the individual, a shareholder, or  
7 a partner appears on that docket, the individual, shareholder, or partner provides to  
8 the authority a payment agreement that has been approved by the county child  
9 support agency under s. 59.53 (5) and that is consistent with rules promulgated  
10 under s. 49.858 (2) (a).

11 (3) EXTENSION. A participating lender may extend the term of a guaranteed  
12 loan until no later than June 30 of the calendar year following the calendar year in  
13 which the participating lender granted the loan.

14 (4) REFINANCING. (a) Except as provided in par. (b), proceeds of a guaranteed  
15 loan may be used to refinance a guaranteed loan no more than one time.

16 (b) The proceeds of a guaranteed loan may be used to refinance a guaranteed  
17 loan that has been refinanced one time if at least 60 percent of the principal amount  
18 of the refinanced guaranteed loan has been repaid.

19 (5) GUARANTEE. The authority may guarantee repayment of no more than 90  
20 percent of the principal of a guaranteed loan. The authority shall establish the  
21 percentage of the unpaid principal of a guaranteed loan that will be guaranteed,  
22 using the procedures described in the guarantee agreement under s. 235.16 (2) (a).  
23 The authority may establish a single percentage for all guaranteed loans or establish  
24 different percentages for guaranteed loans on an individual basis.

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1           **(6) ORIGINATION FEES.** The authority shall charge a guarantee origination fee  
2 on every guaranteed loan. The amount of the fee shall be a percentage, determined  
3 by the authority, of each loan's guaranteed principal. The participating lender shall  
4 collect the fee and remit it to the authority. The authority shall deposit all fees  
5 received under this subsection in the Wisconsin clean and renewable energy reserve  
6 fund to be used to guarantee loans under this section.

7           **235.16 Wisconsin clean and renewable energy reserve fund. (1)**

8           **ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.** There is established under the jurisdiction and control of  
9 the authority, for the purpose of providing funds for guaranteeing loans under  
10 programs established under sub. (2) (a), a Wisconsin clean and renewable energy  
11 reserve fund, consisting of all of the following:

12           (a) From the appropriation under s. 20.498 (1) (a), any amount the authority  
13 determines to deposit into the fund.

14           (b) Any income from investment of moneys in the fund by the authority.

15           (c) Fees collected under s. 235.15 (6).

16           (d) Moneys received by the authority for the fund from any source other than  
17 those specified in pars. (a) to (c).

18           **(2) LOAN PROGRAMS.** (a) The authority may enter into a guarantee agreement  
19 with a lender to establish a loan program guaranteed by the Wisconsin clean and  
20 renewable energy reserve fund. The authority may determine all of the following:

21           1. The form of such an agreement.

22           2. Any conditions upon which the authority may refuse to enter into such an  
23 agreement.

24           3. Any procedures required to carry out such an agreement, including default  
25 procedures and procedures for determining the guaranteed percentage of each loan.

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1 (b) The authority may not use any moneys other than those in the Wisconsin  
2 clean and renewable energy reserve fund for programs established under par. (a).

3 (c) The authority may establish an eligibility criteria review panel, consisting  
4 of experts in finance and in the subject area of a program established under par. (a),  
5 to advise the authority about lending requirements and issues related to a program  
6 or programs established under par. (a).

7 **(3) LOAN GUARANTEES; INCREASES OR DECREASES.** (a) Except as provided in par.  
8 (b), the total principal amount or total outstanding guaranteed principal amount of  
9 all loans that the authority may guarantee under all of the programs established  
10 under sub. (2) (a) may not exceed \$25,000,000.

11 (b) The authority may request the joint committee on finance to take action  
12 under s. 13.10 to permit the authority to increase or decrease the total principal  
13 amount or total outstanding guaranteed principal amount of loans that the authority  
14 may guarantee under all of the programs established under sub. (2) (a), and the joint  
15 committee on finance may take that action. Included with its request, the authority  
16 shall provide a projection, for the next June 30, that compares the amounts required  
17 on that date to pay outstanding claims and to fund guarantees under all of the  
18 programs established under sub. (2) (a) and the balance remaining in the Wisconsin  
19 clean and renewable energy reserve fund on that date after deducting those  
20 amounts, if the increase or decrease is approved, with those amounts and the balance  
21 remaining, if the increase or decrease is not approved.

22 **(4) BALANCE TRANSFER.** (a) Annually on June 30, until no balance remains, the  
23 authority shall transfer to the general fund any balance remaining in the Wisconsin  
24 clean and renewable energy reserve fund on that date, after deducting an amount  
25 sufficient for all of the following:

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1           1. To pay all outstanding claims under the programs established under sub. (2)

2           (a).

3           2. To fund guarantees under all of the programs established under sub. (2) (a)  
4           at a ratio of \$1 of reserve funding to \$4.50 of total outstanding principal and  
5           outstanding guaranteed principal that the authority may guarantee under all of the  
6           programs.

7           (b) Annually on August 31, the executive director of the authority shall provide  
8           to the secretary of administration and the joint committee on finance a signed  
9           statement that includes all of the following information:

10           1. The amounts on that date that are required to pay outstanding claims and  
11           to fund guarantees under the programs established under sub. (2) (a).

12           2. An explanation of how the amounts under subd. 1. were determined.

13           3. The amount of the balance, if any, that remains in the Wisconsin clean and  
14           renewable energy reserve fund after deducting the amounts under subd. 1. and the  
15           amount that will be transferred to the general fund under par. (a).

16           4. A projection of what the amount under subds. 1. and 3. will be on June 30  
17           in each of the next 2 years.

18           **(5) LIMITATION ON LOAN GUARANTEES.** The authority shall regularly monitor the  
19           cash balance in the Wisconsin clean and renewable energy reserve fund. The  
20           authority shall ensure that the cash balance in the fund is sufficient for the purposes  
21           specified in sub. (4) (a) 1. and 2.

22           **(6) ANNUAL REPORT.** On or before November 1 annually, the authority shall  
23           submit to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution under s.  
24           13.172 (2) and to the joint committee on finance a report on the number and total  
25           dollar amount of guaranteed loans under the programs established under sub. (2) (a),

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1 the default rate on the loans, and any other information on the programs that the  
2 authority determines is significant.

3 (7) MORAL OBLIGATION. Recognizing its moral obligation, the legislature  
4 expresses its expectation that, if called upon to do so, it will make an appropriation  
5 to meet all demands for funds guaranteed by the Wisconsin clean and renewable  
6 energy reserve fund.

7 **235.17 Grant program.** The authority may make grants for eligible projects  
8 or grants to eligible businesses or to persons engaged in the commercialization of  
9 biological fuel, biological power, or biological products. The authority shall adopt  
10 guidelines for making grants under this section. The guidelines shall provide for a  
11 committee to make determinations regarding grant recipients and amounts. The  
12 committee shall consist of the secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer  
13 protection, the secretary of natural resources, and the chief executive officer of the  
14 Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. The guidelines may also allow the  
15 committee to make grants on behalf of the authority.

16 **235.18 Additional powers.** The authority may implement any of the  
17 following programs for the purpose of promoting eligible businesses or eligible  
18 projects in this state:

19 (1) A revolving loan fund program pursuant to which the authority makes  
20 loans to finance eligible businesses or eligible projects.

21 (2) An equity financing program to facilitate equity investments in renewable  
22 energy generation businesses owned and controlled by agricultural producers.

23 (3) A conservation trading program pursuant to which the authority acts as an  
24 intermediary in the aggregation and trading of environmental credits related to  
25 clean and renewable energy production.

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1           (4) A program for providing technical assistance and business services to  
2 eligible businesses and community-based projects for reducing energy consumption,  
3 improving energy efficiency, or promoting the use of renewable resources.

4           (5) A program for the authority to obtain licenses and royalties on technologies  
5 developed with the assistance of the authority.

6           (6) The acceptance of gifts and grants to carry out any of the powers of the  
7 authority.

8           **235.19 Repayment to general fund.** The authority shall repay the amounts  
9 appropriated under s. 20.498 (1) (a) to the general fund from that portion of the  
10 authority's surplus, if any, as is determined pursuant to agreement between the  
11 authority and the secretary of administration.

12           **SECTION 50.** 238.10 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

13           **238.10 (1) ALLOCATION.** The corporation shall establish under 26 USC 146 and  
14 administer a system for the allocation of the volume cap on the issuance of private  
15 activity bonds, as defined under 26 USC 141 (a), among all municipalities, as defined  
16 in s. 67.01 (5), and any corporation formed on behalf of those municipalities, and  
17 among this state, the Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority, the  
18 Wisconsin Aerospace Authority, the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development  
19 Authority, and the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority.

20           **SECTION 51.** 281.75 (4) (b) 3. of the statutes is amended to read:

21           281.75 (4) (b) 3. An authority created under subch. II of ch. 114 or ch. 231, 233,  
22 234, 235, 237, or 238.

23           **SECTION 52.** 285.59 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

24           285.59 (1) (b) "State agency" means any office, department, agency, institution  
25 of higher education, association, society, or other body in state government created

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1 or authorized to be created by the constitution or any law which is entitled to expend  
2 moneys appropriated by law, including the legislature and the courts, the Wisconsin  
3 Housing and Economic Development Authority, the Bradley Center Sports and  
4 Entertainment Corporation, the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics  
5 Authority, the Fox River Navigational System Authority, the Wisconsin Aerospace  
6 Authority, the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority, the Wisconsin  
7 Economic Development Corporation, and the Wisconsin Health and Educational  
8 Facilities Authority.

9 **SECTION 53.** 600.01 (1) (b) 8m. of the statutes is created to read:

10 600.01 (1) (b) 8m. Guarantees of the Wisconsin Renewable Energy  
11 Development Authority under s. 235.15.

12 **SECTION 54.** 706.11 (1) (c) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

13 706.11 (1) (c) 2. The Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority  
14 created under ch. 231, the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority  
15 created under ch. 234, the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority  
16 created under ch. 235, or any other authority created by state law.

17 **SECTION 55. Nonstatutory provisions.**

18 (1) TERMS OF INITIAL MEMBERS OF BOARD. Notwithstanding the length of terms  
19 specified for the members of the board of directors of the Wisconsin Renewable  
20 Energy Development Authority under s. 235.02 (1), the initial members of the board  
21 shall be appointed for the following terms:

22 (a) One member appointed under s. 235.02 (1) (a) 1. for a term expiring on July  
23 1, 2023.

24 (b) One member appointed under s. 235.02 (1) (a) 1. for a term expiring on July  
25 1, 2024.

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1 (c) Two members appointed under s. 235.02 (1) (a) 1. for terms expiring on July  
2 1, 2025.

3 (d) One member appointed under s. 235.02 (1) (a) 2. for a term expiring on July  
4 1, 2026.

5 **SECTION 56. Fiscal changes.**

6 (1) SPECIAL EDUCATION AID. In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for the  
7 appropriation to the department of public instruction under s. 20.255 (2) (b), the  
8 dollar amount is increased by 63 percent of the amount expended for the Wisconsin  
9 Renewable Energy Development Authority under s. 20.498 (1) (a) for the fiscal year  
10 in which expended to increase funding for aids for special education under s. 115.88.

11 (2) UW SYSTEM; GENERAL PROGRAM OPERATIONS. In the schedule under s. 20.005  
12 (3) for the appropriation to the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin  
13 System under s. 20.285 (1) (a), the dollar amount is increased by 14 percent of the  
14 amount expended for the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Development Authority  
15 under s. 20.498 (1) (a) for the fiscal year in which expended to increase funding for  
16 the purposes for which the appropriation is made.

17 (3) STATE AIDS FOR TECHNICAL COLLEGES. In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for  
18 the appropriation to the technical college system board under s. 20.292 (1) (d), the  
19 dollar amount is increased by 2 percent of the amount expended for the Wisconsin  
20 Renewable Energy Development Authority under s. 20.498 (1) (a) to increase  
21 funding for the fiscal year in which expended for the purposes for which the  
22 appropriation is made.

23 (END)