



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1499/1
ZDW:wlj:jf

2015 SENATE BILL 112

April 8, 2015 - Introduced by Senators LASSA, RINGHAND, L. TAYLOR, HARRIS DODD, WIRCH, CARPENTER and ERPENBACH, cosponsored by Representatives BARCA, SPREITZER, SINICKI, POPE, MILROY, HEBL, ZAMARRIPA, WACHS, OHNSTAD, SUBECK, CONSIDINE, BERCEAU, BOWEN, KOLSTE, SARGENT, GOYKE, BILLINGS, MASON, JORGENSEN, KAHL, BARNES, MEYERS, GENRICH, YOUNG, DOYLE, STUCK, SHANKLAND and HESSELBEIN. Referred to Committee on Economic Development and Commerce.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 238.137 of the statutes; **relating to:** entrepreneurial
2 assistance grants and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill authorizes the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to award a grant of up to \$3,000 to a new business for expenses related to hiring, as a paid intern, a student enrolled at an institution of higher education who studies business, engineering, information technology, or a similar field (entrepreneurial assistance grant). Under the bill, a new business is a business organized in this state no earlier than five years before the business applies for an entrepreneurial assistance grant. Additionally, if WEDC awards an entrepreneurial assistance grant to three or more businesses to fund internships for students enrolled at a single institution of higher education, and the institution develops a program to support internships funded by these grants, WEDC may award an additional grant of up to \$25,000 to the institution. Finally, this bill requires WEDC to allocate at least \$125,000 in each fiscal year to fund grants authorized under the bill and to submit a report on the effectiveness of those grants to the legislature no later than February 1, 2019.

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

3 **SECTION 1.** 238.137 of the statutes is created to read:

SENATE BILL 112**SECTION 1**

1 **238.137 Entrepreneurial assistance grants. (1)** In this section:

2 (a) “Institution of higher education” means an institution within the University
3 of Wisconsin System, a technical college, or a private, nonprofit institution of higher
4 education located in this state.

5 (b) “New business” means a business organized in this state on a date not more
6 than 60 months before the date on which the business applies for a grant under sub.
7 (2).

8 (2) The corporation may award to a new business a grant of up to \$3,000 for
9 expenses related to hiring a paid intern who will assist with research, marketing,
10 business plan development, or other functions relating to the creation of a new
11 business. A recipient may use the grant under this subsection only for hiring a
12 student who is enrolled in an institution of higher education in the field of business,
13 engineering, or information technology or in a similar field as determined by the
14 corporation.

15 (3) If the corporation awards grants under sub. (2) to 3 or more businesses to
16 fund internships for students enrolled in a single institution of higher education, and
17 the institution of higher education develops a program to facilitate internships
18 funded with grants under sub. (2), the corporation may award a grant of up to
19 \$25,000 to the institution of higher education for costs associated with hiring interns
20 under sub. (2), including faculty or staff time and curriculum development. If the
21 corporation lacks sufficient funds to award grants to all qualified applicants, the
22 corporation shall allocate available funds to applicants that have the greatest
23 potential to create jobs in this state.

