



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3264/1
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2015 SENATE BILL 305

October 9, 2015 - Introduced by Senators TIFFANY and BEWLEY, cosponsored by Representatives KRUG, MEYERS, MURSAU, CZAJA, SWEARINGEN and EDMING. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Veterans Affairs.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 20.395 (2) (bu) of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring the
2 Department of Transportation to award a grant to Northwoods Rail Transit
3 Commission to fund the purchase of railroad cars and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to award a grant in the 2015-17 fiscal biennium, from funds assigned to DOT's freight rail infrastructure improvement program, to the Northwoods Rail Transit Commission for the purchase of railroad cars used to transport forest products. The amount of the grant is \$4,800,000 or 80 percent of the cost to purchase the railroad cars, whichever is less.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** 20.395 (2) (bu) of the statutes is amended to read:
5 20.395 (2) (bu) *Freight rail infrastructure improvements, state funds.* As a
6 continuing appropriation, the amounts in the schedule for loans under s. 85.08 (4m)
7 (d) and (e) and, to make payments under s. 85.085, and for the grant under 2015
8 Wisconsin Act (this act), section 2 (1).

SENATE BILL 305**1 SECTION 2. Nonstatutory provision.**

2 (1) FREIGHT RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT GRANT TO NORTHWOODS RAIL
3 TRANSIT COMMISSION.

4 (a) The legislature finds and determines that the grant under paragraph (b)
5 confers a public benefit and enhances economic development.

6 (b) In the 2015-17 fiscal biennium, from the appropriation under section
7 20.395 (2) (bu) of the statutes, as affected by this act, the department of
8 transportation shall award a grant to Northwoods Rail Transit Commission to fund
9 the purchase of railroad cars to be used to transport forest products, as described in
10 Northwoods Rail Transit Commission's freight rail preservation program
11 application dated January 30, 2015. The amount of the grant under this section shall
12 be \$4,800,000 or 80 percent of the cost to purchase the railroad cars, whichever is
13 less.

14 (c) The department of transportation may apply such reasonable terms,
15 conditions, and monitoring to the grant under paragraph (b) as is consistent with
16 paragraph (b) and the customary practice of the department for grants under section
17 85.08 (4m) (d) of the statutes.

18 (END)