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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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| <b>2003 Wisconsin Act 256</b><br>[2003 Assembly Bill 859]                                                   | <b>Manufacturing Extension Center<br/>Grants</b>                                                                              |
| 2003 Acts: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/">www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/</a> | Act Memos: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm">www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm</a> |

Under current law, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) is authorized to make a grant to a technology-based nonprofit organization to provide support for a manufacturing extension center if: (a) the technology-based nonprofit organization submits a plan to Commerce detailing its proposed expenditures and performance measures related to the project; and (b) the Secretary of Commerce approves the plan.

Manufacturing extension grants have only been made to provide assistance to the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP). WMEP is operated by an organization, the Wisconsin Center for Manufacturing and Productivity, Inc., that includes the Department of Commerce, University of Wisconsin System and Extension, Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), Marquette University, Milwaukee School of Engineering, labor and business. WMEP provides process improvement and technology transfer services to small and medium-sized manufacturers.

2003 Wisconsin Act 256 increases funding for manufacturing extension center grants by \$750,000 GPR annually in fiscal years 2003-04 and 2004-05 and provides that, beginning with fiscal year 2004-05, Commerce may award \$1,500,000 in such grants in each fiscal year.

The Act also allows a technology-based nonprofit organization that receives a manufacturing extension center grant to be eligible for a technology development grant or loan.

**Effective Date:** 2003 Wisconsin Act 256 took effect on April 30, 2004.

**Prepared by:** Mary Matthias, Senior Staff Attorney

May 13, 2004

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.