AN ACT to amend 118.33 (1) (am) of the statutes; relating to: requiring that a high school course in agriculture be counted as a science credit.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a school board may not grant a high school diploma to any pupil unless the pupil has earned, in grades 9 to 12, at least 4 credits of English, 3 credits of social studies, 2 credits of mathematics, 2 credits of science, and 1.5 credits of physical education.

This bill provides that if a pupil earns at least two credits of science, the school board must award the pupil an additional science credit for completing each course in agriculture that the University of Wisconsin−Madison has determined qualifies as a science credit for admission purposes.

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

SECTION 1. 118.33 (1) (am) of the statutes is amended to read:

118.33 (1) (am) The state superintendent shall encourage school boards to require an additional 8.5 credits selected from any combination of vocational education, foreign languages, fine arts and other courses. If a pupil earns at least
2 credits in science under par. (a) 1., the school board shall award the pupil an additional science credit for completing in the high school grades each course in agriculture that the University of Wisconsin–Madison has determined qualifies as a science credit for admission purposes.

SECTION 2. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to agriculture courses completed during the 2007–08 school year.

(END)