2007 SENATE BILL 500

February 15, 2008 – Introduced by Senators VINEHOUT, OLSEN, LEHMAN, DARLING, HANSEN, HARSDORF, LASSA, KAPANKE, PLALE, A. LASEE, ERPENBACH, ROESSLER, BRESKE, JAUCH and TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives A. OTT, GRONEMUS, DAVIS, VRUWINK, HINES, FIELDS, HAHN, PETROWSKI, TOWNSEND, MURTHA, M. WILLIAMS, ALBERS, SHERIDAN, NYGREN, MOLEPSKE, MUSSE, SEIDEL, FRISKE, STRACHOTA, HUBLER, GARTHWAITE and STEINBRINK. Referred to Committee on Agriculture and Higher Education.

AN ACT to amend 15.09 (6) and 20.115 (8) (g); and to create 15.137 (2), 20.115 (8) (ge) and 93.33 of the statutes; relating to: creating an agricultural education and workforce development council and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates an Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council. The council consists of legislators, members from several state agencies and educational institutions, members representing technical colleges and elementary and secondary schools, and members representing businesses related to agriculture, natural resources, and related areas such as food processing. The superintendent of public instruction appoints the members representing elementary and secondary schools. The secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection appoints the members representing businesses. The bill requires the council to advise state agencies on matters related to integrating agricultural education and workforce development in order to increase the hiring and retention of well-qualified employees in industries related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.

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

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

[Further text follows]
SECTION 1. 15.09 (6) of the statutes is amended to read:

15.09 (6) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES. Members of a council shall not be compensated for their services, but, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, members of councils created by statute shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, such reimbursement in the case of an elective or appointive officer or employee of this state who represents an agency as a member of a council to be paid by the agency which pays his or her salary. Members of the loan originator council under s. 15.187 (1) may not be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Members of the agricultural education and workforce development council may not be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

SECTION 2. 15.137 (2) of the statutes is created to read:

15.137 (2) AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. (a) There is created in the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection an agricultural education and workforce development council consisting of the following members:

1. The secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection or his or her designee.

2. The state superintendent of public instruction or his or her designee.

3. The secretary of workforce development or his or her designee.

3m. The secretary of commerce or his or her designee.

4. The secretary of natural resources or his or her designee.

5. The president of the University of Wisconsin System or his or her designee.

6. The director of the technical college system or his or her designee.
7. The chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Extension or his or her designee.

8. A member chosen jointly by the dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, the dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, the dean of the College of Business, Industry, Life Science, and Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin–Platteville, the dean of the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences of the University of Wisconsin–River Falls, and the dean of the College of Natural Resources of the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point to represent the colleges and school.

8g. A technical college district director appointed by the director of the technical college system.

8r. A technical college dean with authority over agricultural programs appointed by the director of the technical college system.

9. The chairpersons of one senate standing committee and one assembly standing committee concerned with education, appointed as are members of standing committees.

10. The chairpersons of one senate standing committee and one assembly standing committee concerned with agriculture, appointed as are members of standing committees.

11. A representative of the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators.

12. Two representatives of general agriculture.

13. Two representatives of agribusiness.


15. A representative of businesses related to natural resources.
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16. A representative of businesses related to plant agriculture.

17. A representative of landscaping, golf course, greenhouse, floral, and related businesses.

18. A representative of food product and food processing businesses.

19. A representative of businesses related to animal agriculture.

20. A representative of businesses related to renewable energy.


22. A representative of businesses providing engineering, mechanical, electronic, and power services relating to agriculture.


24. A teacher who teaches classes in science, vocational technology, business, math, or a similar field.

25. A school guidance counselor.

26. A school board member.

27. A school district administrator.

(b) A person who is authorized under par. (a) 1. to 7. to appoint a designee may only appoint a designee who is an employee or appointive officer of the person’s department or educational institution and who has sufficient authority to deploy department or system resources and directly influence department or educational institution decision making.

(c) The secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection shall appoint members of the council under par. (a) 11. to 23. to serve for 3-year terms. A member under par. (a) 11. to 23. may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms on the council.
(cm) The superintendent of public instruction shall appoint members of the council under par. (a) 24. to 27. to serve for 3-year terms. A member under par. (a) 24. to 27. may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms on the council.

SECTION 3. 20.115 (8) (g) of the statutes is amended to read:

20.115 (8) (g) Gifts and grants. All except as provided in par. (ge), all moneys received from gifts and grants to carry out the purposes for which made.

SECTION 4. 20.115 (8) (ge) of the statutes is created to read:

20.115 (8) (ge) Agricultural education and workforce development council, gifts and grants. All moneys received as gifts and grants for the activities of the agricultural education and workforce development council to carry out the activities of the council.

SECTION 5. 93.33 of the statutes is created to read:

93.33 Agricultural education and workforce development council. (1) Definition. In this section, “council” means the agricultural education and workforce development council.

(2) Functions. (a) The council shall seek to do all of the following:

1. Increase the hiring and retention of well-qualified employees in industries related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.

2. Promote the coordination of educational systems to develop, train, and retrain employees for current and future careers related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.

3. Develop support for employment in fields related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.

4. Recommend policies and other changes to improve the efficiency of the development and provision of agricultural education across educational systems.
(b) The council shall seek to accomplish the purposes under par. (a) by advising state agencies on matters related to integrating agricultural education and workforce development systems, including all of the following:

1. The coordination of programs.

2. The exchange of information related to educational and workforce development needs.

3. The monitoring and evaluation of programs.

(c) The council shall identify criteria for evaluating the success of its activities, shall evaluate the success of its activities using those criteria, and shall annually report the results of the evaluation in the report under sub. (5).

(3) COMMITTEES. (a) The council shall create an executive committee that includes the secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection or his or her designee and the state superintendent of public instruction or his or her designee. The council shall select members of the executive committee so that fewer than half of the members of the executive committee are state employees. The executive committee shall provide guidance to the council and to staff that support the functions of the council. The executive committee shall meet between meetings of the council.

(b) The executive committee may create other committees to assist the council in its work. The committee members may include members of the council, employees of the agencies and educational institutions with members on the council, employees of other state agencies, representatives of organizations, and others. The council and the executive committee shall consider the need for committees on the subjects within the scope of the council's functions under sub. (2) and other subjects determined to be appropriate by the council and the executive committee.
committee shall annually provide a written summary of its meetings and activities
to the executive committee for review and inclusion in the report under sub. (5).

(4) ASSISTANCE. The department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection,
the department of public instruction, the department of workforce development, the
department of natural resources, the technical college system, the College of
Agricultural and Life Sciences of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, the School
of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, the College of
Business, Industry, Life Science, and Agriculture of the University of
Wisconsin–Platteville, the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental
Sciences of the University of Wisconsin–River Falls, and the College of Natural
Resources of the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point may assist the council in
performing its functions.

(4m) MEETINGS. The council shall meet at least annually and may meet at other
times on the call of at least 6 members or on the call of the executive committee.
Section 15.09 (3) does not apply to the council.

(4s) REVIEWS. (a) The department of public instruction shall annually prepare
a review of agricultural education programs in primary and secondary schools.
(b) The technical college system shall annually prepare a review of agricultural
education programs in technical colleges.
(c) Each of the individuals specified in s. 15.137 (2) (a) 8. and the chancellor of
the University of Wisconsin–Extension, jointly or individually, shall annually
prepare a review of agricultural education programs in the University of Wisconsin
System, with input from or review by the University of Wisconsin System
administration.
(5) **ANNUAL REPORT.** In September of each year, the council shall submit a report to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature as determined by the speaker of the assembly and the president of the senate, under s. 13.172 (3), the governor, the secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection, the state superintendent of public instruction, the secretary of workforce development, the secretary of natural resources, the secretary of commerce, the president of the University of Wisconsin System, the director of the technical college system, the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Extension, the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Platteville, the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–River Falls, and the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point. The council shall include all of the following in the report:

(a) A summary of the activities of the council during the fiscal year ending on the preceding June 30.

(am) The reviews prepared under sub. (4s).

(b) The council’s reaction to the reviews prepared under sub. (4s).

(c) A list of current and anticipated challenges related to agricultural education.

(d) Recommendations of the council, including any recommendations related to the structure of the council or the termination of the council.

(e) Dissents of any council member related to the activities and recommendations of the council.

**SECTION 6. Nonstatutory provisions.**

(1) **INITIAL TERMS.** Notwithstanding the length of terms specified in section 15.137 (2) (c) of the statutes, as created by this act, the secretary of agriculture, trade
and consumer protection shall appoint 5 of the initial members of the agricultural
education and workforce development council under section 15.137 (2) (a) 11. to 23.
of the statutes, as created by this act, for terms ending on July 1, 2009, 5 of the initial
members of the agricultural education and workforce development council under
section 15.137 (2) (a) 11. to 23. of the statutes, as created by this act, for terms ending
on July 1, 2010, and 5 of the initial members of the agricultural education and
workforce development council under section 15.137 (2) (a) 11. to 23. of the statutes,
as created by this act, for terms ending on July 1, 2011. Notwithstanding the length
of terms specified in section 15.137 (2) (cm) of the statutes, as created by this act, the
state superintendent of public instruction shall appoint one initial member of the
agricultural education and workforce development council under section 15.137 (2)
(a) 24. to 27. of the statutes for a term ending on July 1, 2009, one initial member of
the agricultural education and workforce development council under section 15.137
(2) (a) 24. to 27. of the statutes for a term ending on July 1, 2010, and 2 initial
members of the agricultural education and workforce development council under
section 15.137 (2) (a) 24. to 27. of the statutes for terms ending on July 1, 2011.

(2) Position authorization. The authorized FTE positions for the department
of agriculture, trade and consumer protection are increased by 1.0 PR position to be
funded from the appropriation under section 20.115 (8) (ge) of the statutes, as created
by this act, for an executive director for the agricultural education and workforce
development council.

SECTION 7. Effective date.

(1) This act takes effect on the 30th day after the day of publication.