



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 230
[2015 Senate Bill 571]

**Authority of the University of
Wisconsin Board of Regents to Sell
or Lease Agricultural Land**

BACKGROUND

The Building Commission and the Department of Administration (DOA) are generally authorized to sell or lease state owned property. Under prior law, the Board of Regents (BOR) of the University of Wisconsin System (UW System) was permitted to sell or lease certain specified tracts of agricultural land associated with UW-Madison with the approval of the Building Commission and Governor. The proceeds from the sale of these lands were to be placed in a fund and used to purchase agricultural land or improvements in locations outside of the Madison urban area. The fund established by the net proceeds of sales could not exceed \$7,200,000.

2015 WISCONSIN ACT 230

Act 230 expands the authority of the BOR to sell or lease UW System land or create improvements on UW System lands, as well as exchange or acquire agricultural land, all without the approval of the Building Commission or Governor. The funding limit on the net proceeds of sales is eliminated and all sales and lease proceeds from agricultural lands may be used for agricultural research facilities upon the consent and recommendation of the BOR. The Act exempts agricultural land of the BOR from being sold or leased by the Building Commission or DOA and generally permits the BOR to except gifts, grants, or bequests of real property without Building Commission approval.

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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 at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.