



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2015 Assembly Bill 156

Assembly Amendment 1

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2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 156

Under the current Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) and with certain exceptions, if an employer participates in WRS (participating employer), all of its employees must participate in WRS (participating employees). 2015 Assembly Bill 156 (the bill) allows an employer who elects to be included within the provisions of WRS to elect to be a participating employer only with respect to employees hired on or after the date on which the employer elects to participate in WRS.

The bill also allows a municipal employer¹ that elects to be a participating employer on or after the effective date of the bill to choose not to include any of its public utility employees who already receive from the employer retirement benefits that are substantially similar to the retirement benefits, as determined by the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF). The bill does not have a delayed effective date and would go into effect the day after its date of publication.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Under Assembly Amendment 1 (AA 1), a municipal employer who elects to be a participating employer on or after the effective date of the bill, may choose not include any of

¹ Under the bill, a municipal employer means any "city, county, village, town, metropolitan sewerage district, school district, long-term care district, local cultural arts district [created under current law], or any other political subdivision of the state, or instrumentality of one or more political subdivisions of the state, that engages the services of an employee and includes any person acting on behalf of a municipal employer within the scope of the person's authority, express or implied."

its public utility employees, irrespective of whether the public utility employees are receiving retirement benefits substantially similar to the benefits provided in WRS as determined by ETF.

BILL HISTORY

AA 1 was introduced by Representative Thiesfeldt on April 21, 2015. On May 5, 2015, the Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs voted to recommend adoption of AA 1 by a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0. The committee then voted to recommend passage of the bill, as amended, by votes of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0.

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