October 27, 2015 – Introduced by Representatives POPE and BARCA. Referred to Committee on Education.

AN ACT to amend 118.60 (2) (a) (intro.); and to create 118.60 (12) of the statutes; relating to: ending the statewide parental choice program.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau
This bill phases out the statewide parental choice program.
Under this bill, beginning in the 2016–17 school year, no pupil may attend a private school under the statewide parental choice program unless the pupil was attending the private school under the statewide parental choice program in the 2015–16 school year. Also under the bill, beginning in the 2016–17 school year, no private school participating in the statewide parental choice program or the Racine parental choice program may accept a pupil who resides in a school district other than the Racine Unified School District or the Milwaukee Public School District unless the pupil attended that private school under the statewide parental choice program in the 2015–16 school year. In other words, no pupil may enter the statewide parental choice program after the 2015–16 school year. This limitation effectively ends the statewide parental choice program when all of the pupils who attended a private school under the statewide parental choice program during the 2015–16 school year have exited the program.
For further information see the state and local 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:
SECTION 1. 118.60 (2) (a) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

118.60 (2) (a) (intro.) Subject to pars. (ag) and (ar), any pupil in grades kindergarten to 12 who resides within an eligible school district may attend any private school under this section and, subject to pars. (ag), (ar), (be), (bm), and (bs) and sub. (12), any pupil in grades kindergarten to 12 who resides in a school district, other than an eligible school district or a 1st class city school district, may attend any private school under this section if all of the following apply:

SECTION 2. 118.60 (12) of the statutes is created to read:

118.60 (12) (a) Beginning in the 2016–17 school year, a pupil who resides in a school district, other than an eligible school district or a 1st class city school district, may not attend a participating private school under this section unless the pupil attended that participating private school under this section in the 2015–16 school year.

(b) Beginning in the 2016–17 school year, a private school participating in the program under this section may not accept a pupil who resides in a school district other than an eligible school district or a 1st class city school district unless the pupil attended the private school under this section in the 2015–16 school year.

(END)