



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2017 Assembly Bill 804**

**Assembly Amendments 1 and 2**

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### **2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 804**

The bill requires the Board of Regents to award merit-based annual \$5,000 scholarships to students enrolled in two- or four-year University of Wisconsin (UW) System schools who have graduated from an in-state high school or been granted a high school diploma by the administrator of an in-state home-based private educational program. The bill requires the Board of Regents to determine student merit based on performance on standardized college entrance examinations and, if applicable, cumulative high school grade point averages.

Under current law, income and interest from the normal school fund is appropriated to the Board of Regents to do the following annually:

1. Make need-based grants totaling \$100,000 to students at the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies who are members of underrepresented groups;
2. Provide scholarships totaling \$100,000 to students enrolled in the sustainable management degree program through the UW-Extension; and
3. Award the balance to UW-Stevens Point for environmental programs.

Under the bill, the Board of Regents must provide \$300,000 annually to UW-Stevens Point for environmental programs and award the balance of the income and interest from the normal school fund to the scholarships created by the bill.

### **ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1**

The amendment gives the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands authority to sell lands from any of the board's trust funds to another of the board's trust funds for the appraised value of the land.

## **ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2**

The amendment provides that the part of the bill creating merit-based scholarships no longer applies on the first day of the 60<sup>th</sup> month after the bill's effective date.

## **BILL HISTORY**

Representative August offered Assembly Amendment 1 on January 29, 2018, and Assembly Amendment 2 on February 15, 2018. On January 31, 2018, the Assembly Committee on Government Accountability and Oversight recommended adoption of the amendment, on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 3, and passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 3. On February 15, 2018, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 on a voice vote, and passed the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 65; Noes, 32.

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