



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2017 Senate Bill 324

Senate Amendment 1

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BACKGROUND

Current law authorizes a local professional baseball park district, created under subch. III of ch. 229, Stats. (Miller Park District), to be located in each county with a population of at least 600,000 (Milwaukee County) and in all counties contiguous to that county (Ozaukee County, Racine County, Washington County, and Waukesha County). The Miller Park District has various powers, including the power to acquire, construct, equip, maintain, improve, operate, and manage baseball park facilities and may set standards governing the use of, and the conduct within the baseball park facilities.

One source of revenue for the Miller Park District is from the sale of Brewers license plates. To obtain a Brewers license plate, a person must also pay an additional annual fee of \$25, in addition to the regular vehicle registration fee and the special license plate fee. Currently, 2% of the \$25 fee is used to pay Major League Baseball licensing fees and the remainder of the fee is distributed to the Miller Park District. The Miller Park District may only use the revenue from the sale of Brewers license plates to retire any outstanding debt.

Another source of revenue for the Miller Park District is a 0.1% sales and use tax imposed in each county located within the district. This sales and use tax may only be used to retire the district's debt. If the Miller Park District board determines that the revenues from the sales and use tax exceeds current operating expenses for the operation of the Miller Park baseball facilities, the board must apply the excess to either fund a fund for maintenance costs and capital improvements or to retire bonds issued for the initial construction of the Miller Park baseball facilities, and any bonds issued to fund or refund those bonds, prior to their maturity.

As soon as practicable after the retirement of all bonds issued for the initial construction of the Miller Park baseball facilities and all bonds issued to fund or refund those bonds, and after funding a fund for maintenance costs and capital improvements sufficiently to meet any maintenance or capital improvement obligations between the Miller Park District and the Brewers baseball team, the Miller Park District board must certify to the Department of Revenue (DOR) that these financial obligations have been met. After this certification is made to DOR, the 0.1% sales and use tax must terminate.

2017 SENATE BILL 324

2017 Senate Bill 324 (“the bill”) provides that when the Miller Park District certifies to the DOR that it has met all of the financial obligations discussed above, the Miller Park District must also make the same certification to the Department of Transportation (DOT). After the Miller Park District makes this certification, the annual fee that the district currently receives from a Brewers license plate will be distributed to the county in which the motor vehicle for the Brewers plate is issued is customarily kept.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 amends the bill to provide that after the Miller Park District makes a certification to DOR and DOT that the district has met all of the financial obligations discussed above, the annual fee that the Miller Park District currently receives from a Brewers license plate will be distributed into a fund for maintenance costs and capital improvements of the Miller Park baseball facilities.

BILL HISTORY

Senate Amendment 1 was introduced on January 5, 2018 by Senator Stroebel. On January 9, 2018, the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Technology, and Consumer Protection voted unanimously to recommend adoption and to pass the bill, as amended.

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