
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2019 Assembly Bill 791

**Assembly
Amendment 1**

2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 791

The Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) administers a private onsite wastewater treatment system (POWTS) grant program. The program, also referred to as the Wisconsin Fund, partially offsets the cost of replacing or rehabilitating eligible failing POWTS.

Under current law, the grant program is set to expire on June 30, 2021. Assembly Bill 791 delays the sunset of the grant program by two years, so that the program will expire on June 30, 2023.

The bill also requires that DSPS prepare literature that describes grant eligibility for a principal residence and distribute the literature to counties. In turn, counties must then distribute the literature to recipients of public benefits.

Finally, the bill authorizes two additional full-time equivalent (FTE) positions at DSPS for the purpose of conducting POWTS application and plan review and fulfilling other DSPS responsibilities relating to POWTS regulation and oversight.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

The amendment requires DSPS to fund a septage characterization study conducted by the Department of Soil and Waste Resources of the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The study must analyze and make recommendations on practices to mitigate the risk of ground and surface water contamination. The department must prepare a report detailing the results of the study and must submit the report to the appropriate standing committees of the Legislature by December 31, 2020.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Krug introduced Assembly Bill 791 on January 24, 2020, and offered Assembly Amendment 1 on January 31, 2020. On February 6, 2020, the Assembly Committee on Rural Development recommended adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 4; and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 3.

RES:jal