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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

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**2019 Senate Bill 724**

**Senate Amendment 1**

### 2019 SENATE BILL 724

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers a well compensation grant program to partially offset the cost of replacing, reconstructing, or treating eligible contaminated wells. 2019 Senate Bill 724 makes several changes to the well compensation grant program, including the following:

- Increases the amount appropriated for the grant program by \$1 million in each fiscal year.
- Eliminates certain eligibility requirements for wells contaminated by only nitrates or only bacteria so that such wells are more generally eligible for a grant.
- Creates a requirement that the DNR award grants for claims based on only nitrate contamination according to a specified priority ranking.
- Of the \$1 million additional funds appropriated for the grant program, requires the DNR to allocate \$200,000 in each fiscal year for claims based on nitrate levels between 10 to 25 parts per million.
- Authorizes one additional full-time equivalent (FTE) position at the DNR for the purpose of creating a well compensation grant program administrator. This position is to be funded from the \$1 million appropriation created under the bill.

### SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Instead of authorizing an additional FTE position at the DNR to be paid from the new \$1 million appropriation, the amendment requires that the DNR reallocate an existing FTE position to create a well compensation grant program administrator position. This position is to be funded from the DNR's general operations appropriation.

### BILL HISTORY

On January 24, 2020, Senator Testin introduced 2019 Senate Bill 724, which was part of a package of bills recommended by the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality. Senator Testin offered Senate Amendment 1 on February 6, 2020, following a public hearing on the bill. On February 11, 2020, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy voted to recommend adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended, both on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0. On February 12, 2020, the Joint Committee on Finance voted to recommend adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 3. On the same day, the Joint Committee on Finance voted to recommend passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 16; Noes, 0.

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