
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2021 Wisconsin Act 112
[2021 Senate Bill 489]

**Changes to Clean Water Fund
Program and Safe Drinking Water
Loan Program**

BACKGROUND

The Clean Water Fund Program provides financial assistance to municipalities for projects to control water pollution, such as sewage treatment plants. The Safe Drinking Water Loan Program provides low-interest loans to municipalities for drinking water infrastructure projects to help them comply with federal drinking water standards. Both programs are administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

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The act makes various changes to the process for applying for financial assistance under the Clean Water Fund Program and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program.

Under prior law, a municipality that intended to apply for financial assistance under either program was required to submit notice of its intent to apply to DNR at least six months before the beginning of the fiscal year in which it intended to request to receive the assistance. The act eliminates the requirement to submit the notice of intent.

Additionally, under prior law, both programs prohibited a municipality from submitting more than one application per year. The act eliminates this prohibition.

The act makes three additional changes to the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program, as follows:

- Prior law required an applicant for assistance under the program to submit the application on or before the June 30th before the fiscal year in which the applicant wished to receive funding, with certain exceptions. The act removes this requirement, and instead requires DNR to provide, at least annually, instructions for submitting applications, including the deadline for submittal, if any.
- Under prior law, if funding was allocated for a loan and the loan was not closed before June 30 of the year following the year in which funding was allocated, the Department of Administration was required to release the allocated funding. The act repeals this provision.
- Prior law required an applicant for financial assistance under the program to submit an engineering report, as required by DNR by rule. Under the act, DNR may require submission of an engineering report and, if required, it must be submitted prior to or at the same time as the application.

Effective date: December 5, 2021

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