
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



Memo published: April 28, 2021

Contact: Katie Bender-Olson, Senior Staff Attorney

2021 Assembly Bill 261

Assembly Amendment 1

2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 261

Assembly Bill 261 extends authority for the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to waive certain requirements and deadlines applicable to private schools participating in a parental choice program, private schools participating in the Special Needs Scholarship Program, or independent charter schools. Waiver authority was originally granted to DPI by 2020 Wisconsin Act 185, enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under Act 185, DPI was given authority to waive any requirement in the education chapters or in DPI administrative rules related to a choice program, a private school participating in a choice program, or an independent charter school. DPI was also given authority to establish alternate deadlines for any statutory or administrative rule requirement related to a parental choice program or the Special Needs Scholarship Program. The waiver authority ended on October 31, 2020. Assembly Bill 261 extends the authority to waive requirements and deadlines by an additional year, and applies through October 31, 2021.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 restricts the waiver authority granted to DPI under the bill by prohibiting waiver of state assessment requirements. Specifically, the amendment prohibits DPI from waiving any requirement related to pupil assessments under s. 118.30, Stats., or the third grade reading test.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Wittke on April 27, 2021. On that date, the Assembly Committee on Education recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1, and passage of Assembly Bill 261, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0.

KBO:ksm