
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2021 Assembly Bill 335

Assembly Amendments 1 and 2

2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 335

Assembly Bill 335 creates a grant program, under which the Department of Justice (DOJ) must award grants to law enforcement agencies to enable the agencies to purchase body cameras for their officers. For at least three years from the date of a grant award, grant recipients must: (1) equip with a body camera all officers who have primary duties involving traffic patrol, beat patrol, or responding to calls from the public requiring assistance; and (2) require an officer equipped with a body camera to activate the camera in situations in which the officer has an enforcement or investigation contact with a member of the public.

Under the bill, grant funds may be used only to cover the costs of body cameras, digital storage, and retrieval systems. Grant recipients must provide a 50-percent match, and grant funds may not supplant existing resources. Upon DOJ's request, the bill authorizes the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) to supplement the bill's appropriation in the 2021-23 fiscal biennium with sufficient funds for DOJ to award grants, without finding that an emergency exists, as generally required under current law governing JCF supplemental appropriations.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 defines the term "law enforcement agency" for purposes of eligibility for the grant program. Specifically, under the amendment, law enforcement agencies of Wisconsin political subdivisions or of federally recognized Indian tribes or bands are eligible for the grant, as is the Marquette University police department. However, the amendment clarifies that state law enforcement agencies are not eligible.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2

Assembly Amendment 2 deletes the bill's appropriation provisions and instead requires that DOJ, in the 2021-23 fiscal biennium, request that JCF supplement an appropriation for DOJ that is created in any legislation enacted during the 2021-22 legislative session with sufficient funds for DOJ to award grants under the program created in the bill.

BILL HISTORY

Representatives Steineke and Stubbs offered Assembly Amendment 1 on June 1, 2021, and Assembly Amendment 2 on June 14, 2021.

On June 3, 2021, the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1, and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0.

On June 16, 2021, the Assembly, on voice votes, adopted Assembly Amendment 1 and Assembly Amendment 2, and passed the bill, as amended.

AO:jal