
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2021 Senate Bill 302

Senate Amendment 1

2021 SENATE BILL 302

Senate Bill 302 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 Wisconsin 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. The bill extends the authority to waive requirements and deadlines by an additional year, and applies through October 31, 2021.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate 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

Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Stroebel on April 29, 2021. On that date, the Senate Committee on Education recommended adoption of Senate Amendment 1, and passage of Senate Bill 302, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 7; Noes, 0.

EH:ksm