March 10, 2022 – Introduced by Representatives GOYKE, ANDRACA, BALDEH, CONLEY, CONSIDINE, EMERSON, HAYWOOD, HEBL, HINTZ, B. MEYERS, POPE, RIEMER, S. RODRIGUEZ, SHANKLAND, SINICKI, SPREITZER, SUBECK, VINING, HESSELBEIN, OHNSTAD and SHELTON, cosponsored by Senators SMITH, AGARD, CARPENTER, JOHNSON, LARSON and L. TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on State Affairs.

AN ACT to create 16.32, 16.9652, 20.395 (1) (ba), 20.505 (1) (cs), 20.505 (1) (e) and 85.207 of the statutes; relating to: local shared services grants, regional affordable housing grants, grants for certain kinds of redevelopment, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates two grant programs under which local governmental units may obtain financing for costs related to planning and operating certain shared service agreements. Under the shared services planning and operation grant program, the Department of Administration provides grants to applicant political subdivisions to finance the costs of planning and operating shared service agreements. These agreements must involve at least two political subdivisions jointly providing a service. Under the shared mass transit service grant program, the Department of Transportation provides grants to local public bodies to finance the costs of planning and operating shared mass transit agreements. These agreements must involve at least two local public bodies and must expand mass transit service within or between the political subdivisions in which the local public bodies are located. Local public bodies under the bill include political subdivisions, agencies of political subdivisions, and other public bodies that provide mass transit services.

The bill also creates a grant program under which DOA may award grants to political subdivisions to do the following:

1. Fund a political subdivision’s planning and operational costs in establishing a regional affordable housing development plan and fund a political subdivision’s
ASSEMBLY BILL 1116

costs related to the construction of one or more regional affordable housing developments.

2. Fund a political subdivision’s costs related to the redevelopment of one or more large retail stores, or one or more shopping centers or malls, that are empty. A political subdivision receiving such a grant must match the amount of the grant from nonstate funding sources.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 16.32 of the statutes is created to read:

16.32 Regional affordable housing developments; certain kinds of redevelopment. (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDING. The legislature finds and determines that the construction of regional affordable housing developments in this state and the redevelopment of large retail stores and shopping centers or malls in this state that are empty are a statewide responsibility of statewide dimension. It is therefore in the public interest, and it is the public policy of this state, to award the grants authorized under this section for those purposes.

(2) DEFINITION. In this section, “political subdivision” means a city, village, town, or county.

(3) REGIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS. From the appropriation under s. 20.505 (1) (e), the department may award grants to political subdivisions to do the following:

(a) Fund the political subdivision’s planning and operational costs in establishing a regional affordable housing development plan.

(b) Fund the political subdivision’s costs related to the construction of one or more regional affordable housing developments in the political subdivision.
ASSEMBLY BILL 1116

(4) Certain kinds of redevelopment. (a) From the appropriation under s. 20.505 (1) (e), and subject to par. (b), the department may award grants to a political subdivision to fund the political subdivision’s costs related to the redevelopment of one or more large retail stores, or one or more shopping centers or malls, in the political subdivision that are empty.

(b) Each political subdivision awarded a grant under par. (a) shall match the amount of the grant from nonstate funding sources.

(5) Coordination. The department shall coordinate with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority to implement this section.

(6) Rules. The department shall promulgate rules to implement this section. The rules shall include a definition of “affordable” for purposes of sub. (3) that is based on data related to regional income and housing costs.

(7) Enumeration. This section constitutes enumeration in the authorized state building program for purposes of s. 20.924.

SECTION 2. 16.9652 of the statutes is created to read:

16.9652 Shared services planning and operation grants. (1) In this section:

(a) “Political subdivision” means a city, village, town, or county.

(b) “Shared service agreement” means an agreement under s. 66.0301 between not fewer than 2 political subdivisions under which the parties agree to jointly provide a service within the territory of the political subdivisions.

(2) (a) Subject to pars. (b) and (c), from the appropriation under s. 20.505 (1) (cs), the department shall provide grants to applicant political subdivisions to finance the costs of planning and operating a shared service agreement. In awarding
grants under this subsection, the department shall attempt to promote efficient and
effective local government.

(b) A grant under par. (a) may not cover more than 50 percent of the operational
costs of a shared service agreement in the first 2 years of the agreement and may not
cover operational costs of a shared service agreement that are expected to be incurred
after the first 2 years of the agreement.

(c) The department may not award a grant under par. (a) that the department
determines will result in a reduction of services provided to a political subdivision.

SECTION 3. 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert
the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

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<tr>
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<th>2021-22</th>
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<tr>
<td>20.505 (e) GPR C</td>
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SECTION 4. 20.395 (1) (ba) of the statutes is created to read:
20.395 (1) (ba)  Shared mass transit services grants. As a continuing appropriation, from the general fund, the amounts in the schedule for shared mass transit services grants under s. 85.207.

SECTION 5. 20.505 (1) (cs) of the statutes is created to read:

20.505 (1) (cs) Shared services grants. As a continuing appropriation, the amounts in the schedule for shared services planning and operation grants under s. 16.9652.

SECTION 6. 20.505 (1) (e) of the statutes is created to read:

20.505 (1) (e) Regional affordable housing developments; certain kinds of redevelopment. As a continuing appropriation, the amounts in the schedule for the grants under s. 16.32.

SECTION 7. 85.207 of the statutes is created to read:

85.207 Shared mass transit services grants. (1) In this section:

(a) “Local public body” has the meaning provided in s. 85.20 (1) (d).

(b) “Political subdivision” means a city, village, town, or county.

(c) “Shared mass transit agreement” means means an agreement between not fewer than 2 local public bodies under which the parties agree to expand mass transit service within or between the political subdivisions in which the agreeing local public bodies are located.

(2) (a) Subject to par. (b), from the appropriation under s. 20.395 (1) (ba), the department shall provide grants to local public bodies to finance the costs of planning or operating a shared mass transit services agreement or the costs of a capital improvement project included in a shared mass transit services agreement. In awarding grants under this subsection, the department shall attempt to promote efficient and effective local government, the expansion of mass transit service to
areas not currently served by mass transit, and the provision of mass transit service
to populations in greatest need of access to mass transit.

(b) 1. A grant under par. (a) may not cover more than 50 percent of the
operational costs of a shared mass transit services agreement in the first 2 years of
the agreement and may not cover operational costs of a shared mass transit services
agreement that are expected to be incurred after the first 2 years of the agreement.
This subdivision does not apply to costs directly related to a capital improvement
project.

2. Notwithstanding subd. 1., a grant under par. (a) may not cover more than
50 percent of the cost of a capital improvement project.