
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2023 Wisconsin Act 244
[2023 Senate Bill 311]

State Aid for Local Fairs

BACKGROUND

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) provides aid to counties and agricultural societies, associations, or boards to reimburse these entities for a portion of the cash prizes (“premiums”) awarded to exhibitors at local fairs. No fair, association, or board may receive this state aid unless its premium list, entry fees, and charges conform to premium lists and other rules established by DATCP.

2023 WISCONSIN ACT 244

Prior to 2023 Wisconsin Act 244, the statutes limited the amount of state aid that a county or agricultural society, association, or board could receive to \$10,000 per fair. The act raises this limit to \$20,000.

2023 Wisconsin Act 244 also specifies that DATCP may not restrict the number of fairs at which an exhibitor may participate and be eligible to receive state-aided premium awards.¹ However, the act retains prior law that allows an entity operating a fair to impose restrictions on the number of fairs at which an exhibitor may participate while remaining eligible for premiums.

Effective date: March 29, 2024

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature’s [bill history page](#).

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¹ In 2022, DATCP promulgated a rule specifying that state aid could not be used to award a premium for an item or animal that had already received a premium in the same division at another state-aid funded fair earlier in the same calendar year. [See [Clearinghouse Rule 21-093](#).]