

---

# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

---



**Prepared by:** Brian Larson, Principal Attorney

October 15, 2025

**2025 Wisconsin Act 31**  
[2025 Senate Bill 255]

**Chippewa and Flambeau  
Improvement Company**

### BACKGROUND

In 1911, the Legislature created the Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Company (CFIC) for the purpose of building, maintaining, and operating dams and reservoirs on the Chippewa and Flambeau Rivers in northern Wisconsin. The statutes authorize the CFIC to levy tolls or issue bonds for certain expenses, and direct it to produce as nearly a uniform flow of water as practicable in the Chippewa and Flambeau Rivers to improve the usefulness of the rivers and reduce flood damage.

### 2025 WISCONSIN ACT 31

The act authorizes the CFIC to use tolls for expenses such as acquisition and improvement of the reservoir system, recovery of the costs of taxes and depreciation, and a reasonable allowance for working capital. Previously, tolls could be used only for operation, maintenance, and certain other costs, as specified in the statutes.

The act expands the CFIC's authority to issue interest-bearing bonds by eliminating a restriction against using bonds to fund more than one-half of the cost of an improvement. Also, it eliminates a requirement that capital stock earnings be invested in a sinking fund to retire outstanding bonds, and it eliminates a restriction against payment of dividends to stockholders while bonds are outstanding.

Finally, the act makes a water power operator that operates for at least two months of a six-month toll period subject to tolls for the entire six-month toll period. Previously, the statute had provided that such a water power operator was not subject to tolls for the entire six-month toll period.

**Effective date:** August 10, 2025

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

BL:jal