
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2025 Assembly Bill 187

Assembly Amendment 1

2025 ASSEMBLY BILL 187

Under current law, the Department of Administration (DOA) administers a program to provide length-of-service awards to volunteer firefighters.

Under 2025 Assembly Bill 187, DOA must also make grants to volunteer fire departments and volunteer fire companies to make training completion awards of \$250 to volunteer firefighters after the completion of 60 hours of training. The municipality in which the department or company is organized must, by ordinance, provide an additional matching payment of \$250, for a total training completion award of \$500.

Six years after the bill's effective date, and for two years thereafter, DOA must submit a report to the Legislature that includes the number of individuals who received a grant through the date of the report and the number of those individuals who are still firefighters in Wisconsin on the date of the report.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 makes two changes to the bill. First, the amendment defines “volunteer fire company” and “volunteer fire department” by cross-referencing a definition of “volunteer fire department” in federal law.¹ Second, the amendment requires DOA's reports to the Legislature to also include the number of grant recipients who are volunteer or paid firefighters in Wisconsin and what fire department in the state employs those individuals.

BILL HISTORY

Senator Sortwell offered Assembly Amendment 1 on May 29, 2025. The Assembly adopted the amendment and passed the bill, as amended, with voice votes on June 24, 2025.

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

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¹ Under federal law, “volunteer fire department” means a fire department that has an all-volunteer force of firefighting personnel. [15 U.S.C.s. 2229 (a) (9).]