
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2025 Assembly Bill 217

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1

BACKGROUND

With limited exceptions, current law generally requires local units of government to advertise and bid for any public work or contract with an estimated cost over \$25,000 on the basis of sealed competitive bids, and to award such contracts to the lowest responsible bidder. Current law also generally requires local units of government to provide a public notice before letting a contract with an estimated cost over \$5,000. Current law provides limited exceptions to those requirements, including for improvements that are constructed by a private entity and donated to a city or village.

2025 ASSEMBLY BILL 217

2025 Assembly Bill 217 generally increases the dollar threshold for the competitive bidding requirement for local public works and contracts to \$50,000, and it increases the dollar threshold for providing public notice of contracts to \$10,000. Beginning on the fifth year after the bill takes effect, the bill provides for an automatic increase in those thresholds every five years to adjust for inflation.

The bill also creates two new exceptions from local competitive bidding requirements. First, it provides an exception for improvements that are constructed by a private entity and donated to a town or county, similar to the existing exemption for improvements donated to a city or village. Second, it provides an exception for public works conducted by a county for the purpose of providing housing to persons who have been placed on supervised release under ch. 980, Stats.

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 makes two changes to the bill. First, it adds the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District to the local units of government for which dollar thresholds are increased under the bill. Second, it removes the new exception to competitive bidding requirements for housing provided by a county to persons who have been placed on supervised release under ch. 980, Stats.

BILL HISTORY

Representative O'Connor and others introduced the bill on April 23, 2025. Representative O'Connor offered Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on May 14, 2025 following a public hearing on the bill. On May 28, 2025, the Assembly Committee on Local Government voted to recommend adoption of the substitute amendment and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 9; Noes, 0.

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

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