
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2025 Senate Bill 186

Senate Amendment 1

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

Under Senate Bill 186, 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.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate 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 Jacque offered Senate Amendment 1 on May 29, 2025. On June 4, 2025, the Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government voted by paper ballot to recommend adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

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

TK: kp

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).]