



State of Wisconsin  
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1430/P1  
EHS:emw

DOA:.....Vencill, BB0323 - Stewardship administrative changes

**FOR 2023-2025 BUDGET -- NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION**

**AN ACT ...; relating to:** the budget.

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*Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

**GENERAL NATURAL RESOURCES**

***Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 program***

Current law authorizes the state to incur public debt for certain conservation activities under the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 program, which is administered by DNR. The state may incur this debt to acquire land for the state for conservation purposes and for property development activities and may award grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations to acquire land for these purposes.

Under current law, generally, for any project or activity for which more than \$250,000 of stewardship moneys are proposed to be obligated, DNR must obtain written approval for the project or activity from JCF. The bill increases this threshold to \$500,000. The bill also eliminates the requirement that DNR obtain written approval for obligating stewardship moneys for any land acquisition located north of STH 64.

The bill also eliminates a requirement under current law that DNR provide a written directory of all stewardship land that is open for public access.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** 23.09165 (2) (ac) of the statutes is renumbered 23.09165 (2).

**SECTION 2.** 23.09165 (2) (bc) of the statutes is repealed.

**SECTION 3.** 23.0917 (6m) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

23.0917 (**6m**) (c) The procedures under par. (a) apply only to an amount for a project or activity that exceeds ~~\$250,000~~ \$500,000, except as provided in pars. (d), (dg), and (dm), ~~and~~ (dr).

**SECTION 4.** 23.0917 (6m) (dm) (intro.) and 1. of the statutes are amended to read:

23.0917 (**6m**) (dm) (intro.) The procedures under par. (a) apply to an amount for a project or activity that is less than or equal to ~~\$250,000~~ \$500,000 if all of the following apply:

1. The project or activity is so closely related to one or more other department projects or activities for which the department has proposed to obligate or has obligated moneys under s. 20.866 (2) (ta) that the projects or activities, if combined, would constitute a larger project or activity that exceeds ~~\$250,000~~ \$500,000.

**SECTION 5.** 23.0917 (6m) (dr) of the statutes is repealed.

(END)