



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2007 Wisconsin Act 223
[2007 Assembly Bill 83]

**Agricultural Education and
Workforce Development Council**

2007 Wisconsin Act 223 creates the Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council (Council) in the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

MEMBERSHIP OF THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The membership of the Council consists of: (a) four legislators; (b) the secretaries of ATCP, Workforce Development, Commerce, and Natural Resources; the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (State Superintendent); the president of the University of Wisconsin (UW) System; the chancellor of the UW-Extension; and the director of the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) or their designees as long as a designee is an employee or appointive officer of the person's department or education system who has sufficient authority to deploy department or system resources and directly influence department or educational institution decision making; (c) a member chosen jointly by the deans of several designated colleges; (d) 15 members designated by the Secretary of ATCP representing various businesses and organizations related to agriculture, food, natural resources, renewable energy, and a representative of the ATCP Board; (e) a technical college district director and a technical college dean with authority over agricultural programs—both appointed by the director of the WTCS; and (f) a teacher who teaches classes in science, vocational technology, business, math, or a similar field; a school guidance counselor; a school board member; and a school district administrator—all four appointed by the State Superintendent.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL; ADVISING STATE AGENCIES; REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND ANNUAL REPORT

Functions of the Council

The Act provides that the Council is directed to seek to do all of the following:

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

1. Increase the hiring and retention of well-qualified employees in industries related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.
2. Promote the coordination of educational systems to develop, train, and retrain employees for current and future careers related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.
3. Develop support for employment in fields related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.
4. Recommend policies and other changes to improve the efficiency of the development and provision of agricultural education across educational systems.

The Council is required to identify criteria for evaluating the success of its activities and then evaluate its activities using those criteria.

Advising State Agencies

The Council is directed to seek to accomplish the purposes stated above by advising state agencies on matters related to integrating agricultural education and workforce development systems, including all of the following: (a) coordination of programs; (b) exchange of information related to educational and workforce development needs; and (c) monitoring and evaluation of programs.

Review of Agricultural Education Programs

The Act requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to annually prepare a review of agricultural education programs in primary and secondary schools. It also requires the WTCS to prepare a review of such programs in technical colleges and requires various entities to prepare a review of such programs in the UW System.

Annual Report

The Council is required to submit a report each September to: the Legislature, Governor, several specified cabinet secretaries, State Superintendent, president of the UW System, director of the WTCS, chancellor of the UW-Extension, and chancellors of several specified UW institutions. The report must include:

1. A summary of Council's activities in the preceding fiscal year, including an evaluation of the success of the Council's activities using the criteria identified by the Council for evaluating its activities.
2. An assessment of agricultural education programs.
3. A list of current and anticipated challenges related to agricultural education.
4. The Council's recommendations, including any recommendations related to the structure or termination of the Council.
5. Any dissenting opinions of Council members related to the activities and recommendations of the Council.

6. The reviews of agricultural education programs in primary and secondary schools, technical colleges, and the UW System noted above, and the Council's reaction to the reviews.

OPERATION OF THE COUNCIL

Executive Committee and Other Committees

Executive Committee. The Council is required to create an executive committee to provide guidance to the Council and to staff that support the Council's functions. The executive committee must include the Secretary of ATCP or his or her designee and the State Superintendent or his or her designee. Also, state employees must be fewer than half of the members of the executive committee. The executive committee is required to meet between Council meetings.

Other Committees. The executive committee may create other committees to assist the Council in its work. The committee members may include members of the Council, employees of the agencies and educational institutions that have members on the Council, representatives of organizations, and others. The executive committee and Council must consider the need for committees on the subjects within the scope of the Council's functions and other subjects determined to be appropriate by the Council and the executive committee. Any committee appointed (other than the executive committee) must annually provide a written summary of its meetings and activities to the executive committee for review and inclusion in the annual report referred to above.

Executive Director

The Act increases the position authorization for DATCP by 1.0 full-time equivalent position for executive director of the Council to be funded by program revenue (PR) from the gifts and grants received by DATCP to carry out the activities of the Council.

Meetings

The Act provides that the Council must meet at least annually and may meet at other times on the call of at least six Council members or on the call of the executive committee.

Appropriation

The Act creates a separate PR appropriation to DATCP from the moneys received as gifts and grants to carry out the activities of the Council.

No Expense Reimbursement

The Act specifies that members of the Council may not be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties.

Assistance

The Act provides that all of the following may assist the Council in performing its functions: DATCP; DPI; the Department of Workforce Development, the Department of Natural Resources, the

WTCS; the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences of the UW-Madison; the College of Business, Industry, Life Science, and Agriculture of the UW-Platteville; the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences of the UW-River Falls; and the College of Natural Resources of the UW-Stevens Point.

Effective Date: The Act takes effect on April 22, 2008.

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