



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACT MEMO**

2013 Wisconsin Act 12 [2013 Senate Bill 55]	Joint Local Water Authorities
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2013 Wisconsin Act 12 revises the statutes governing two state programs to treat joint municipal water authorities in the same manner as certain other municipal utility structures.

Municipal Utility Relocation or Replacement for Freeway Construction

When freeway construction requires the relocation of municipal utility facilities, the state pays 90% of the eligible costs of relocating or replacing the facilities. [s. 84.295 (4m), Stats.] The affected municipal utility is responsible for the remaining 10% of the cost. The municipal utility facilities to which this applied under prior law were the following:

- Those owned by a town, village, or city or any town sanitary district.
- Those under the jurisdiction of a metropolitan sewerage district, except a metropolitan sewerage district in a first-class city.

Act 12 adds utility facilities owned by a joint local water authority to the list of facilities eligible for state reimbursement of relocation or replacement costs arising from freeway construction projects. This portion of the Act first applies to a freeway construction project let for contracts on the earlier of the following:

- The day after publication of the bill as an act (the standard effective date of legislation).
- May 14, 2013.

Safe Drinking Water Loan Program

Under the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program, the Departments of Administration and Natural Resources provide financial assistance to local units of government for the planning, designing, construction, or modification of public water systems, to facilitate compliance with federal drinking water standards and to otherwise further objectives of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. [s. 281.61, Stats.] Under prior law, “local governmental unit” was defined for purposes of this program as “a city, village, town, county, town sanitary district, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district or

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.wisconsin.gov>.

municipal water district.” Financial management of the program is provided under the Environmental Improvement Fund. [s. 281.59, Stats.] “Municipality” was defined in that section as “any city, town, village, county, county utility district, town sanitary district, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district, metropolitan sewerage district or federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state.”

Act 12 expands these definitions to include joint local water authorities, making such authorities eligible to participate in the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program.

Effective date: May 19, 2013

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