



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 108
[2015 Senate Bill 261]

**Telecommunications Services
Provided to UW System by the
Department of Administration**

BACKGROUND

The Public Service Commission (PSC) charges an assessment on companies that provide retail intrastate voice telecommunications services, and it uses the revenue to fund the universal service fund. The University of Wisconsin (UW) System receives an annual appropriation from the universal service fund that it must use to pay the Department of Administration (DOA) for telecommunications services that DOA provides to UW System campuses.

The Governor's 2015-17 Biennial Budget proposal eliminated the appropriation to the UW System from the appropriation schedule in ch. 20, Stats. The proposal also repealed the statutory provisions that create the appropriation and require PSC to determine the assessment amount based, in part, on the amount needed to fund the appropriation for the UW System. A comprehensive summary of this provision of the Governor's budget proposal, prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, is available through the following link: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/publications/budget/201517%20Budget/Documents/Budget%20Papers/678.pdf>.

The Joint Committee on Finance and the Legislature deleted the portion of the Governor's proposal that eliminated the appropriation described above from the appropriation schedule in ch. 20, Stats. As a result, 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, the 2015-17 Biennial Budget Act, restored the appropriation in ch. 20, Stats. However, it did not restore the statutory provisions that create the appropriation and require PSC to determine the assessment amount based, in part, on the amount needed to fund the appropriation for the UW System. In September 2015, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau reported in its comparative summary of 2015 Wisconsin Act 55 that "Additional legislation would be required to correct this error and accomplish the intent of the Joint Finance Committee and the Legislature as it relates to this appropriation." [Legislative Fiscal Bureau Comparative Summary of Provisions of 2015 Act 55, p. 771, available at the following link:

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>.

[http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/publications/budget/201517%20Budget/Documents/Act%2055/uw%20system.pdf.](http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/publications/budget/201517%20Budget/Documents/Act%2055/uw%20system.pdf)]

2015 WISCONSIN ACT 108

2015 Wisconsin Act 108 restores the statutory provisions that: (1) create the annual appropriation to the UW System from the universal service fund; and (2) require PSC to determine the amount assessed against telecommunications companies under the program based, in part, on the amount needed to fund the appropriation for the UW System.

Effective date: November 13, 2015.

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