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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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March 27, 2020

**2019 Wisconsin Act 159**  
[2019 Senate Bill 369]

**Federal Emergency Management  
Assistance Payments to Local  
Governments**

### BACKGROUND

Under state law, the adjutant general serves as the Governor's principal assistant for directing and coordinating emergency management activities. Among other responsibilities related to this role, the adjutant general must prescribe and carry out statewide training programs and exercises to develop emergency management proficiency, disseminate information, and coordinate emergency management programs. The adjutant general must also make payments from the state's share of federal disaster assistance to local governments for major disaster recovery assistance.

### 2019 WISCONSIN ACT 159

2019 Wisconsin Act 159 modifies several emergency management authorities and requirements of the adjutant general. The act requires the adjutant general to include, within the statewide emergency management training program, training on how to create an account with the federal System for Award Management Internet site to apply for federal emergency management assistance. The Division of Emergency Management, within the Department of Military Affairs, shall provide this training by June 30, 2021, and shall attempt in due diligence to ensure that all local units of government have created an account with the Internet site.

The act also requires the adjutant general to do both of the following:

- Provide an option for the head of emergency management for each local unit of government to elect to receive all emergency management correspondence via electronic mail, including project worksheets and other administrative documents.
- Notify each local unit of government that it may receive payment from the Division of Emergency Management via electronic means, including by direct deposit electronic funds transfer, or automated clearinghouse procedures.

Finally, the act requires the adjutant general to issue federal disaster assistance payments to local governments within 30 days after: (1) the state receives the federal emergency assistance funds; (2) the adjutant general has received all required state and federal forms from the local unit of government; and (3) the local unit of government has fulfilled all other state and federal requirements.

**Effective date:** March 5, 2020

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