



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2003 Assembly Bill 228

**Assembly
Amendment 1**

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Assembly Bill 228 creates two new environmental programs in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), known as the “environmental results program” and the “environmental improvement program.” The environmental results program provides incentives to public and private entities for voluntarily improving their environmental performance beyond complying with the applicable minimum requirements in environmental laws. The environmental improvement program establishes procedures for entities regulated by the DNR to avoid forfeitures (civil monetary penalties) for a violation of an environmental law under specified circumstances if the violation is reported to the DNR on the basis of a voluntary environmental audit. These programs are both complex and are described in detail in the analysis of the bill by the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Assembly Amendment 1 makes two technical changes to a portion of the environmental results program. That program requires, under certain circumstances, that a regulated entity use an outside environmental auditor to conduct an annual environmental management system audit. The bill requires that the DNR approve the outside environmental auditor and sets two alternative criteria for this approval.

Assembly Amendment 1 amends these criteria for the DNR to approve an outside auditor. First, it deletes a reference to the American National Standards Institute. The amendment provides a correct statement of the relationship between the Registrar Accreditation Board and the American National Standards Institute. It is the Registrar Accreditation Board, working on its own behalf, that certifies environmental auditors. More information about the Registrar Accreditation Board is available at that organization’s website: www.rabnet.com/ab_main.shtml.

Assembly Amendment 1 also substitutes a reference to International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard 14012 with a reference to ISO guidance 19011 in the second criterion for DNR to approve an outside auditor. ISO 14012 has been superseded by ISO 19011.

Legislative History

Assembly Amendment 1 was introduced by Representative Montgomery. The committee adopted Assembly Amendment 1 by a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 3 and recommended passage of Assembly Bill 228, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 3 on May 1, 2003.

The Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 1 by a voice vote and passed Assembly Bill 228, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 65; Noes, 30 on May 29, 2003.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources recommended concurrence in Assembly Bill 228 by a vote of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2 on August 27, 2003.

JES:MCP:rv:wu;rv