



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2003 Assembly Bill 796

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 2**

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Assembly Substitute Amendment 2 to 2003 Assembly Bill 796 creates a “Wisconsin Advantage Jobs Training Program.” Assembly Substitute Amendment 2 provides that a technical college district board, with the approval of the state Technical College System Board may on its own or jointly with any other entity, contract with a business located in the district to provide the business with one or more of the following:

1. Training for jobs created or retained by the business.
2. Adult basic education.
3. Vocational and skill-assessment services.
4. Training facilities, equipment, and material.
5. Professional services.

The substitute amendment does not contain any other provisions.

Original Legislation

Under Assembly Bill 796, as originally introduced, the district board was authorized to establish a regional project for the creation and retention of jobs entitled the “Wisconsin Advantage Program.” The contracted services enumerated in the bill were the same as those contained in Assembly Substitute Amendment 2.

However, the original bill stated that a district board could not enter into a contract in which the cost per trainee exceeded \$3,500. Also, the bill contained a provision for allowing the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) to permit the district board to exceed the \$3,500 limit. Assembly Bill 796 also required the state board to ensure that the total costs of the contracts did not exceed \$10,000,000 in any

fiscal year unless the JFC approved a higher limit. Furthermore, Assembly Bill 796 would have permitted a district board to issue revenue bonds to finance the costs of providing these services and materials to businesses. The bill originally required the Department of Revenue (DOR) to determine the amount of wages from which income tax withholding is calculated for an individual who has been provided training or education by a technical college district under a contract as described above and calculate the total for each technical college district. DOR was then required to certify the names of the individuals to the Department of Commerce and also certify 1.5% of the amount calculated for each technical college district to the Technical College System Board which could then distribute the amounts to the districts.

The original bill also authorized a district board to organize a nonstock corporation for the purposes of raising funds and providing support to the district.

None of these provisions which appeared in the original legislation are part of Assembly Substitute Amendment 2. It should be noted that the fiscal support for the program has been incorporated into Assembly Substitute Amendment 2 to 2003 Assembly Bill 811. That bill provides for transferring funds from the Wisconsin Development Fund to support a grant program for the purposes enumerated in 2003 Assembly Bill 796.

The Senate companion bill to Assembly Bill 796 is Senate Bill 384. The Senate companion bill to Assembly Bill 811 is Senate Bill 451.

Legislative History

Assembly Bill 796 was introduced on February 2, 2004, by Representative Krawczyk and others; cosponsored by Senator Leibham and others, and referred to the Assembly Committee on Workforce Development. The committee held a public hearing on February 11, 2004. On February 18, the committee held an executive session and recommended adoption of Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 12; Noes, 0. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 5. The bill was referred to the JFC on February 19, 2004. The committee offered Assembly Substitute Amendment 2 on March 2, 2004. On March 4, 2004, the JFC reported adoption of Assembly Substitute Amendment 2 on a vote of Ayes, 12; Noes, 4. The committee then reported passage of the bill, as amended, on an identical vote.

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