



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2013 Senate Bill 318

Senate Amendment 1

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2013 Senate Bill 318 (the bill) creates a process that the City of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Public School (MPS) District must follow relating to the sale of certain underutilized buildings used by the MPS District. The process includes preparation of an inventory of buildings and the accepting and review of applications to purchase certain underutilized buildings identified in the inventory.

Senate Amendment 1 (the amendment) makes three changes to the bill.

Definition of “Underutilized Building”

The bill defines “underutilized building” as a building that satisfies any of the following:

- Less than 40% of the square footage in the building is used for instruction of pupils on a daily, school day basis.
- The school is not staffed on a full-time basis by a principal and instructional staff assigned exclusively to the school. A school building that is staffed on a full-time basis by instructional staff assigned exclusively to the school is not considered to be an underutilized school building if the principal of the school also serves as the principal of another school.
- The number of hours of pupil instruction offered in the school building in the previous school year was less than 80% of the number of hours of pupil instruction required to be scheduled under current law.

The amendment deletes the first of these criteria. As a result, a building will not be considered underutilized solely on the basis of the proportion of the building’s space used for the instruction of pupils.

Deadline for Sale of Building

The bill requires that the Milwaukee Common Council or its agent complete a number of tasks, including completion of the sale of a building, no later than the first business day after the end of the time period for submission of letters of interest to purchase the building.

The amendment extends this deadline by 60 days.

The amendment also makes a technical correction to this provision of the bill.

Sale for Non-Educational Use

The bill specifies that, for the first 48 months after a building is identified as an eligible building in the inventory of MPS buildings, only educational operators may purchase the building; after that time, any person may purchase the building.

The amendment shortens this time period to 24 months, meaning that a person who is not an educational operator may purchase an eligible building beginning 24 months after it is identified as an eligible building.

Bill History

On October 14, 2013, the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Public Works, and Telecommunications voted to recommend adoption of Senate Amendment 1 by a vote of Ayes, 5; and Noes, 2; and voted to recommend passage of 2013 Senate Bill 318, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 4; and Noes, 3.

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