



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2015 Assembly Bill 548

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 1**

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2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 548

Assembly Bill 548 establishes a Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC) program to protect, enhance, and provide access to Wisconsin's natural heritage and encourage and enable young people to learn the value of work in a natural setting by providing employment training and career pathways.

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 directs the Department of Administration (DOA) to administer and manage the WCC program or contract with a nonprofit corporation or a higher education institution that has demonstrated experience in grant program administration to administer and manage the program. The manager must submit all project applications to DOA for approval and must facilitate the awarding of grants to applicants.

An application is eligible for approval if the applicant has demonstrated experience in natural resources conservation and youth training or employment. Applications must identify the project and project sponsor, include a detailed plan for the work to be performed on the project, a plan for training the work crew members and an affirmation that the work crew members will satisfy the eligibility requirements specified in the substitute amendment. Each project must be designed to carry out a specific goal within a defined period of time, and meet other specified criteria, including being eligible for Americorps award matching. A WCC project may be sited only on public land in the state.

Under the substitute amendment, if the manager determines that the project and work crew members satisfy these requirements, the manager must submit the application to the National Service Board for a grant, and must also submit the application to DOA for a grant.

The DOA may award a grant for a proposed project in an amount no less than \$25,000 or more than \$75,000, if the project sponsor provides funding of at least 50% of the amount of the grant.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was offered by Representatives Mason and Mursau on February 5, 2016. On February 10, 2016, the Assembly Committee on Environment and Forestry recommended adoption of the substitute amendment on a vote of Ayes, 14; Noes, 1; and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 2.

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