
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2021 Assembly Bill 258

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 1**

2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 258

2021 Assembly Bill 258 directs the Department of Justice (DOJ) to award grants to cities to fund community-oriented policing house programs, and appropriates \$600,000 for that purpose in the current fiscal year. The bill requires a city to have a population of at least 60,000 people to receive a grant. The bill otherwise directs DOJ to develop criteria for the grant program, and it exempts those criteria from general rulemaking requirements.

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Like the bill, Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 directs DOJ to award grants to cities to fund community-oriented policing-house programs. However, the substitute amendment differs from the bill in several ways. Specifically, the substitute amendment does all of the following:

- Reduces the population threshold for eligibility to 30,000, making more cities eligible for the program.
- Rather than directing DOJ to develop criteria for the grant program, the substitute amendment sets forth criteria that DOJ must use in awarding grants, including maximizing grant resources to serve the greatest number of people in the greatest number of cities; a city's plan for integrating the houses into the fabric of the community; future ability to use the property for multiple purposes, including building relationships between law enforcement and the community and connecting residents of the neighborhood to community supports; and the ability for community organizations, government agencies, faith-based organizations, and other nonprofit entities to use the house once it is established.
- Removes the appropriation of funds for the program, with the effect that the question of funding is left to the budget process.

BILL HISTORY

Representatives Steineke and Stubbs, the co-chairs of the Speaker's Task Force on Racial Disparities, offered Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on May 13, 2021. On June 2, 2021, the Assembly Committee on Local Government voted to recommend adoption of the substitute amendment on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 2. The committee then voted to recommend passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 3.

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