
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2021 Assembly Bill 367

Assembly Amendment 1 and Assembly Substitute Amendment 1

2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 367

2021 Assembly Bill 367 requires the Governor to allocate \$50,000,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the purchase of the Verso Paper Mill in Wisconsin Rapids. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) may then award a loan of up to that amount to Consolidated Cooperative for the purchase of the paper mill if the following conditions are met:

- WEDC and Consolidated Cooperative agree upon terms and conditions for the loan.
- WEDC determines that Consolidated Cooperative has secured substantial additional funding from nonstate revenue sources.
- WEDC determines that an entity eligible to do so has secured substantial additional funding in the form of a loan issued by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 requires the Governor to allocate an additional \$15,000,000 in ARPA funds for the Park Falls Paper Mill. WEDC may then award a loan of up to that amount to the Park Falls Mill Multi-Stakeholder Cooperative, subject to the same conditions for securing the loan as for the loan for the Verso Paper Mill.

The amendment also specifies that each respective loan may be used for:

- The purchase of the mill.
- Improvements to infrastructure related to the mill.
- Equipment upgrades at the mill.

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 largely retains the provisions of Assembly Bill 367, as amended by Assembly Amendment 1, but makes the following changes:

- WEDC may provide the loan for the Verso Mill to the Consolidated Cooperative or another eligible borrower. Similarly, the loan for the Park Falls Mill may be made to the Park Falls Mill Multi-Stakeholder Cooperative or another eligible borrower.
- The loan contract for each mill must provide WEDC with a security interest in the mill to secure repayment of the loan.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Krug offered Assembly Amendment 1 on June 8, 2021. Also on June 8, 2021, the Assembly Committee on State Affairs recommended adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 4. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 4. Representative Krug offered Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on June 22, 2021. Also, on June 22, 2021, the Assembly adopted the substitute amendment on a voice vote and passed the bill, as amended by Assembly Substitute Amendment 1, on a vote of Ayes, 63; Noes, 35.

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