
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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Contact: Katie Bender-Olson, Senior Staff Attorney

2021 Assembly Bill 561

**Assembly Amendments
1, 2, and 3, and Assembly
Amendment 1 to Assembly
Amendment 2**

2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 561

Assembly Bill 561 requires school districts to report information about students who take credit recovery courses to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). A “credit recovery course” is a program or course that allows a student to retake a course or make up credit for a course the student took but did not pass and that is required for high school graduation. The bill requires school districts to report the following information to DPI after each school year: (1) the number of students who attended a credit recovery course during the school year; (2) each student’s grade level; and (3) the subject of the course each student attended. DPI must then compile the information and submit a report to the Assembly and Senate Committees on Education by January 1st of each year.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 changes the initial applicability date from next school year to the current school year. Under the amendment, school districts must begin reporting credit recovery course information for the 2021-22 school year.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2, AS AMENDED

Assembly Amendment 2, as originally introduced, applied the credit recovery course reporting requirement to independent charter schools and all private schools, in addition to school districts. Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Amendment 2 limits the reporting requirement so that it applies to school districts, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a school choice program or the Special Needs Scholarship Program, rather than applying to all private schools.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 3

Assembly Amendment 3 expands the types of credit recovery course information that school districts must report to DPI. In addition to categories required under the bill, the amendment also requires districts to report a student’s ethnicity, whether the student is a limited-English proficient student, and whether the student’s rate of truancy during the school year was 20 percent or more of the days on which school was held.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Amendment 1 was introduced by Representative Duchow on September 16, 2021. On September 22, 2021, the Assembly Committee on Education adopted Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 10; Noes, 5.

Assembly Amendment 2 was introduced by Representative Wittke on September 16, 2021. On September 22, 2021, the Assembly Committee on Education adopted Assembly Amendment 2 on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 7.

Assembly Amendment 3 was introduced by Representative Thiesfeldt on September 21, 2021. On September 22, 2021, the Assembly Committee on Education adopted Assembly Amendment 3 on a vote of Ayes, 10; Noes, 5.

The Assembly Committee on Education recommended passage of Assembly Bill 561, as amended, on September 22, 2021, on a vote of Ayes, 10; Noes, 5.

Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Amendment 2 was introduced by Representative Wittke on September 27, 2021. The full Assembly adopted the amendment and passed the bill, as amended, on the following day.

KBO:ksm