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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

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**2021 Senate Bill 719**

**Senate Amendment 1**

### 2021 SENATE BILL 719

2021 Senate Bill 719 makes changes to the lobbying laws as recommended by the Wisconsin Ethics Commission. Very generally, the bill includes the following provisions:

- Allows an agency official, elective state official, or legislative employee to attend meetings to discuss government proposals and issues without paying admission, a practice referred to as a “Lobby Day.”
- Eliminates a requirement in current law that the Ethics Commission submit weekly reports on licensed lobbyists to the Legislature.
- Allows the Ethics Commission to notify lobbyists and principals of missing lobbying reports by electronic mail, in addition to mail.
- Allows a lobbyist to use a primary address when applying for a lobbying license and to keep that address confidential under Wisconsin’s open records law.
- Includes a school district administrator in the definition of “local public office” for purposes of the local code of ethics.<sup>1</sup> A school district administrator means a school district superintendent, supervising principal, or other person who acts as the administrative head of a school district.

### SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 amends the definition of “local public office.” Under the amendment, the following positions are included in that definition, and are therefore subject to the local code of ethics:

- An employee of a school district who holds a school administrator license or permit issued by the Department of Public Instruction under rules promulgated pursuant to s. 118.19, Stats.,<sup>2</sup> and whose employment requires that the individual hold that license or permit.
- An employee of a school district who acts as the head of facilities and maintenance and whose employment duties include making purchasing decisions or recommendations for the school district.

### BILL HISTORY

Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Bernier on January 31, 2022. On February 9, 2022, the Senate Committee on Elections, Election Reform, and Ethics adopted the amendment and passed the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

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<sup>1</sup> The local code of ethics includes provisions such as a prohibition on a local public official’s use of his or her public position or office to obtain financial gain. [s. 19.59, Stats.]

<sup>2</sup> See s. PI 34.035 and subch. VIII, ch. PI 34 Wis. Adm. Code.