



## 2011 ASSEMBLY BILL 573

February 17, 2012 - Introduced by Representatives MOLEPSKE JR, MURSAU, SPANBAUER, TURNER, RINGHAND, CLARK, BALLWEG, BERNARD SCHABER, PASCH, KRUG and BERCEAU, cosponsored by Senators HANSEN and HOLPERIN. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1     **AN ACT** *to amend* 23.22 (2) (c); and *to create* 23.0917 (4) (b) 5., 23.22 (1) (cg),  
2           23.22 (1) (cm) and 23.22 (1) (cr) of the statutes; **relating to:** stewardship  
3           funding for grants to control invasive species.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers a financial assistance program under which it awards cost-sharing grants to public and private entities for projects to control invasive species that cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Under current administrative rules, these entities include lake districts, certain lake associations, and nonprofit conservation organizations. Moneys for these grants are appropriated from the conservation fund.

Under current law, the state may incur public debt by issuing bonds for certain conservation activities under the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 Program, which DNR administers. The state is currently authorized to bond under two of the program's subprograms: the land acquisition subprogram and the property development and local assistance subprogram. Bonding under the property development and local assistance subprogram may generally be used only for nature-based outdoor recreation. This bill allows DNR to use stewardship bonding for these cost-sharing grants to control invasive species for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes.

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For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 23.0917 (4) (b) 5. of the statutes is created to read:

2           23.0917 (4) (b) 5. Invasive species grants under s. 23.22 (2) (c) to nonprofit  
3 conservation organizations, lake districts, and qualified lake associations.

4           **SECTION 2.** 23.22 (1) (cg) of the statutes is created to read:

5           23.22 (1) (cg) “Lake district” means a public inland lake protection and  
6 rehabilitation district, a lake sanitary district, as defined in s. 30.50 (4q), or any other  
7 local governmental unit, as defined in s. 66.0131 (1) (a), that is established for the  
8 purpose of lake management.

9           **SECTION 3.** 23.22 (1) (cm) of the statutes is created to read:

10          23.22 (1) (cm) “Nonprofit conservation organization” has the meaning given in  
11 s. 23.0955 (1).

12          **SECTION 4.** 23.22 (1) (cr) of the statutes is created to read:

13          23.22 (1) (cr) “Qualified lake association” means an association that meets the  
14 qualifications under s. 281.68 (3m) (a).

15          **SECTION 5.** 23.22 (2) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

16          23.22 (2) (c) Under the program established under par. (a), the department  
17 shall promulgate rules to establish a procedure to award cost-sharing grants to  
18 public and private entities for up to 75 percent of the costs of projects to control  
19 invasive species. The rules promulgated under this paragraph shall establish  
20 criteria for determining eligible projects and eligible grant recipients. Eligible  
21 projects shall include education and inspection activities at boat landings. Eligible

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1 grant recipients shall include nonprofit conservation organizations, lake districts,  
2 and qualified lake associations. The rules shall allow cost-share contributions to be  
3 in the form of money or in-kind goods or services or any combination thereof. In  
4 promulgating these rules, the department shall consider the recommendations of the  
5 council under sub. (3) (c).

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**(END)**