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State of Misconsin 2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3709/2 FFK&JK:emw

2015 SENATE BILL 376

November 12, 2015 – Introduced by Senators C. Larson, Carpenter, Harris Dodd, Miller, Wirch, Ringhand, Vinehout and Lassa, cosponsored by Representatives Pope, Barnes, Sinicki, Considine, Genrich, Johnson, Kahl, Milroy, Hesselbein, Goyke, Bowen, Hebl, Berceau, Spreitzer, Zamarripa, C. Taylor, Subeck, Kolste, Brostoff, Stuck, Billings and Wachs. Referred to Committee on Education.

AN ACT to repeal 20.255 (2) (aq) and 115.437; to consolidate, renumber and amend 121.15 (1m) (a) (intro.) and 3.; to amend 20.255 (2) (ac), 79.10 (4), 79.10 (5m), 79.14, 79.15, 121.004 (7) (a), 121.07 (6) (d), 121.105 (2) (am) 1., 121.105 (2) (am) 2. (intro.), 121.15 (3m) (a) 2., 121.90 (2) (am) 1., 121.905 (1), 121.905 (3) (c) 6., 121.91 (2m) (i) (intro.), 121.91 (2m) (r) 1. (intro.), 121.91 (2m) (r) 1. b., 121.91 (2m) (s) 1. (intro.), 121.91 (2m) (s) 1. b. and 121.91 (2m) (t) 1. (intro.); and to create 20.255 (2) (bg), 121.004 (7) (g), 121.10, 121.105 (5), 121.136 (3), 121.15 (3m), 121.905 (3) (c) 7., 121.905 (3) (c) 8., 121.91 (2m) (im) and 121.91 (2m) (j) of the statutes; relating to: counting low-income pupils for state school aid purposes; calculating the amount to be appropriated for state general school aid; school aid factors; special adjustment aids; hold harmless aid; per pupil aid;

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school district revenue limits; the first dollar and school levy property tax credits; and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill makes a number of changes in the laws relating to public school financing, including the following:

- 1. Currently, the amount appropriated each fiscal year for general school aid is a sum set by law. This bill directs the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), the Department of Administration, and the Legislative Fiscal Bureau annually to jointly certify to the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) an estimate of the amount necessary to appropriate in the following school year to ensure that state school aids equal the following percentage of partial school revenues (in general, the sum of state school aids and school property taxes):
 - a. For the 2016-17 school year, 64.5 percent.
 - b. For the 2017-18 school year, 65.2 percent.
 - c. For the 2018-19 school year, 65.9 percent.
 - d. For the 2019-20 school year and each school year thereafter, two-thirds.

Under the bill, JFC determines the amount appropriated as general school aids in each odd-numbered fiscal year (e.g., the 2016–17 fiscal year) and the amount is set by law in each even-numbered fiscal year.

- 2. For purposes of determining a school district's general school aid amount, in general this bill requires that each pupil who is eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch under the federal school lunch program be counted as an additional 0.3 pupil.
- 3. Currently, if a school district would receive less in general state aid in any school year than 85 percent of the amount it received in the previous school year, its state aid for the current school year is increased to 85 percent of the aid received in the previous school year. This bill increases the percentage to 90 percent.
- 4. This bill provides that a school district's state aid in any school year may not be less than an amount equal to the school district's membership multiplied by \$3,000.
- 5. Under current law, beginning in the 2015–16 school year, for purposes of calculating a school district's revenue limit, there is no per pupil adjustment. This bill provides a per pupil adjustment of \$275 per pupil for the 2016–17 school year. Under the bill, in the 2017–18 school year and thereafter, the per pupil adjustment is the per pupil adjustment for the previous school year as adjusted for any increase in the consumer price index.
- 6. Currently, if at least 50 percent of a school district's enrollment is eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch under the federal school lunch program, the school district is eligible for a prorated share of the amount appropriated as high-poverty aid.

This bill eliminates this aid beginning in the 2016–17 school year. The bill provides additional state aid for the 2016–17 school year to hold school districts harmless from the loss of high-poverty aid.

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- 7. Currently, the state annually pays each school district an amount equal to its average enrollment in the current and two preceding school years multiplied by \$150 in the 2013–14 school year and \$250 in each school year thereafter. This bill eliminates this per pupil aid after the 2015–16 school year.
- 8. Currently, \$75,000,000 in school aid payments is delayed until the following school year. Beginning in the 2017–18 school year, this bill delays \$972,400,000 in school aid payments until the following school year.
- 9. In the school district equalization aid formula, the guaranteed evaluations represent the amount of property tax base support that the state guarantees behind each pupil. There are three guaranteed valuations used; each applies to a different level of expenditures. The first level is for expenditures up to the primary cost ceiling of \$1,000 per pupil. The second level is for costs per pupil that exceed \$1,000 but are less than the secondary cost ceiling, which is set at 90 percent of the prior school year statewide shared cost per pupil. This bill changes the secondary cost ceiling to 100 percent of the prior school year statewide shared cost per pupil.
- 10. The bill eliminates the school levy property tax credit and the first dollar property tax credit.

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

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

SECTION 1. 20.255 (2) (ac) of the statutes is amended to read:

20.255 (2) (ac) General equalization aids. The amounts in the schedule A sum sufficient for the payment of educational aids under ss. 121.08, 121.09, 121.095, 121.105, 121.137 and subch. VI of ch. 121 equal to the amount determined by the joint committee on finance under s. 121.15 (3m) (c) in the 2016–17 fiscal year and biennially thereafter, and equal to the amount determined by law in the 2017–18 fiscal year and biennially thereafter.

Section 2. 20.255 (2) (aq) of the statutes is repealed.

- Section 2. 20.200 (2) (aq) of the statutes is repeated.
- 9 **Section 3.** 20.255 (2) (bg) of the statutes is created to read:
- 10 20.255 (2) (bg) *Hold harmless aid*. A sum sufficient for hold harmless aid to school districts under s. 121.10.
- **Section 4.** 79.10 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

79.10 (4) SCHOOL LEVY TAX CREDIT. Except as provided in sub. (5m), the amount
appropriated under s. 20.835 (3) (b) shall be distributed to municipalities in
proportion to their share of the sum of average school tax levies for all municipalities.
No municipality shall receive a payment under this subsection after 2017.

Section 5. 79.10 (5m) of the statutes is amended to read:

79.10 (5m) First dollar credit. Each municipality shall receive, from the appropriation under s. 20.835 (3) (b), an amount determined by multiplying the school tax rate by the estimated fair market value, not exceeding the value determined under sub. (11) (d), of every parcel of real property with improvements that is located in the municipality. No municipality shall receive a payment under this subsection after 2017.

SECTION 6. 79.14 of the statutes, as affected by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, is amended to read:

79.14 School levy tax credit. The appropriation under s. 20.835 (3) (b), for the payments under s. 79.10 (4), is \$319,305,000 in 1994, 1995, and 1996; \$469,305,000 beginning in 1997 and ending in 2006; \$593,050,000 in 2007; \$672,400,000 in 2008; \$747,400,000 in 2009; \$732,550,000 in 2010, 2011, and 2012; \$747,400,000 in 2013, 2014, and 2015; and \$853,000,000 in 2016 and in each year thereafter 2017.

Section 7. 79.15 of the statutes is amended to read:

79.15 Improvements credit. The total amount paid each year to municipalities from the appropriation account under s. 20.835 (3) (b) for the payments under s. 79.10 (5m) is \$75,000,000 in 2009, \$145,000,000 in 2010, and \$150,000,000 in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and in each year thereafter 2017.

1	Section 8. 115.437 of the statutes, as affected by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, is
2	repealed.
3	SECTION 9. 121.004 (7) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:
4	121.004 (7) (a) "Pupils enrolled" is the total number of pupils, as expressed by
5	official enrollments, in all schools of the school district, except as provided in pars
6	(b) to (f) (g) . If such total contains a fraction, it shall be expressed as the nearest whole
7	number. The same method shall be used in computing the number of pupils enrolled
8	for resident pupils, nonresident pupils or both.
9	Section 10. 121.004 (7) (g) of the statutes is created to read:
10	121.004 (7) (g) A pupil who satisfies the income eligibility criteria for a free or
11	reduced-price lunch under 42 USC 1758 (b) (1) shall be counted as the number
12	specified in this subsection for the pupil plus an additional 30 percent of that number
13	Section 11. 121.07 (6) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:
14	121.07 (6) (d) The "secondary ceiling cost per member" in the $2001-02$ $2016-17$
15	school year and in each school year thereafter is an amount determined by dividing
16	the state total shared cost in the previous school year by the state total membership
17	in the previous school year and multiplying the result by 0.90.
18	Section 12. 121.10 of the statutes is created to read:
19	121.10 Hold harmless aid. (1) In this section, "state aid" means the sum of
20	the following:
21	(a) The payments made to a school district under ss. 121.08 and 121.105 and
22	subch. VI.
23	(b) The payments that would be made to a school district under s. 121.136 if s
24	121.136 were still applicable.

- (c) The amount that would be received by a school district under s. 79.10 (4) and (5m) if s. 79.10 (4) and (5m) were still applicable.
- (2) (a) Except as provided in par. (b), in the 2016–17 school year, if a school district would receive less in equalization aid under s. 121.08 in the current school year before any adjustment is made under s. 121.15 (4) (b) than it would have received in state aid in the current school year, the department shall pay to the school district the amount equal to the difference.
- (b) If a school district from which territory was detached to create a new school district under s. 117.105 would receive in equalization aid under s. 121.08 in the school year beginning on the first July 1 following the effective date of the reorganization less than the amount determined as follows, the department shall pay to the school district the difference between the former amount and the amount determined as follows:
- 1. Divide the school district's membership in the preceding school year by the school district's membership in the 2nd preceding school year.
- 2. Multiply the amount of state aid that would have been received by the school district in the preceding school year, as adjusted under s. 121.15 (4) (b) in the current school year, by the quotient under subd. 1.
- (3) In the school year in which a school district consolidation takes effect under s. 117.08 or 117.09 and in each of the subsequent 4 school years, if the consolidated school district's equalization aid is less than the aggregate state aid to which the consolidating school districts would have been eligible in the school year prior to the school year in which the consolidation takes effect, the department shall pay the difference to the consolidated school district.

(4) Additional aid under this section shall be paid from the appropriation under
s. 20.255 (2) (bg). No aid may be paid under this section after the 2016–17 school year.
Section 13. 121.105 (2) (am) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:
121.105 (2) (am) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2., if a school district would
receive less in state aid in the current school year before any adjustment is made
under s. 121.15 (4) (b) than an amount equal to 85% $\underline{90 \ percent}$ of the amount of state
aid that it received in the previous school year, as adjusted under s. $121.15(4)(b)$ in
the current school year, its state aid for the current school year shall be increased to
an amount equal to 85% 90 percent of the state aid received in the previous school
year.
Section 14. 121.105 (2) (am) 2. (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:
121.105 (2) (am) 2. (intro.) If a school district from which territory was detached
to create a new school district under s. 117.105 would receive in state aid in the school
year beginning on the first July 1 following the effective date of the reorganization
less than 85 90 percent of the amount determined as follows, its state aid in the school
year beginning on the first July 1 following the effective date of the reorganization
shall be increased to an amount equal to $85 \underline{90}$ percent of the amount determined as
follows:
SECTION 15. 121.105 (5) of the statutes is created to read:
121.105 (5) A school district's state aid in any school year may not be less than
an amount equal to \$3,000 multiplied by the school district's membership.
Section 16. 121.136 (3) of the statutes is created to read:
121.136 (3) No aid may be paid under this section after June 30, 2016.
SECTION 17. 121.15 (1m) (a) (intro.) and 3. of the statutes are consolidated,

renumbered 121.15 (1m) (a) and amended to read:

121.15 (1m) (a) Notwithstanding subs. (1) and (1g), -a portion of state aid to
school districts shall be distributed as follows: Beginning beginning in the
$1999-2000 \ \underline{2015-16}$ school year, annually the state shall pay to school districts, from
the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (ac), \$75,000,000 \$972,400,000 on the 4th
Monday in July of the following school year.
SECTION 18. 121.15 (3m) of the statutes is created to read:
121.15 (3m) (a) In this subsection:
1. "Partial school revenues" means the sum of state school aids, property taxes
levied for school districts, and aid paid to school districts under s. 79.095 (4), less all
of the following:
a. The amount of any revenue limit increase under s. 121.91 (4) (a) 2. due to a
school board's increasing the services that it provides by adding responsibility for
providing a service transferred to it from another school board.
b. The amount of any revenue limit increase under s. 121.91 (4) (a) 3.
c. The amount of any revenue limit increase under s. 121.91 (4) (h).
d. The amount of any property taxes levied for the purpose of s. 120.13 (19).
e. An amount equal to the amount estimated to be paid under s. 119.23 (4) and
(4m) multiplied by the sum of the applicable percentages specified in s. 121.08 (4) (b)
1. and 2.
f. The amount by which the property tax levy for debt service on debt that has
been approved by a referendum exceeds \$490,000,000.

2. "State school aids" means those aids appropriated under s. 20.255 (1) (b) and

(2), other than s. 20.255 (2) (az), (fm), (fp), (fr), (fs), (fu), (fv), (k), and (m), and under

s. 20.285 (1) (r) and (rc), and those aids appropriated under s. 20.505 (4) (es) and (s)

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- that are used to provide grants or educational telecommunications access to school districts under s. 16.995 or 16.997 (7).
 - (b) By May 15, 2016, and annually by May 15 thereafter, the department, the department of administration, and the legislative fiscal bureau shall jointly certify to the joint committee on finance an estimate of the amount necessary to appropriate under s. 20.255 (2) (ac) in the following school year to ensure that state school aids equal the following portion of partial school revenues:
 - 1. For the 2016–17 school year, 64.5 percent.
 - 2. For the 2017–18 school year, 65.2 percent.
- 10 3. For the 2018–19 school year, 65.9 percent.
- 4. For the 2019–20 school year and each school year thereafter, two-thirds.
- 12 (c) By June 30, 2016, and biennially by June 30 thereafter, the joint committee 13 on finance shall determine the amount appropriated under s. 20.255 (2) (ac) in the 14 following school year.
- SECTION 19. 121.15 (3m) (a) 2. of the statutes, as created by 2015 Wisconsin Act

 (this act), is amended to read:
 - 121.15 **(3m)** (a) 2. "State school aids" means those aids appropriated under s. 20.255 (1) (b) and (2), other than s. 20.255 (2) (az), (fm), (fp), (fr), (fs), (fu), (fv), (k), and (m), and under s. 20.285 (1) (r) and (re), and those aids appropriated under s. 20.505 (4) (es) and (s) that are used to provide grants or educational telecommunications access to school districts under s. 16.995 or 16.997 (7).
 - **Section 20.** 121.90 (2) (am) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:
- 121.90 (2) (am) 1. Aid under ss. 121.08, 121.09, 121.10, 121.105, and 121.136 and subch. VI, as calculated for the current school year on October 15 under s. 121.15 (4) and including adjustments made under s. 121.15 (4).

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1	SECTION 21. 121.905 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:
2	121.905 (1) In this section, "revenue ceiling" means \$9,000 in the 2011-12
3	school year and in the 2012–13 school year and, \$9,100 in the 2013–14, 2014–15, and
4	2015-16 school year years, \$9,300 in the 2016-17 school year, and \$9,600 in any
5	subsequent school year.
6	Section 22. 121.905 (3) (c) 6. of the statutes is amended to read:
7	121.905 (3) (c) 6. For the limit for the 2015–16 school year or any school year
8	thereafter, make no adjustment to the result under par. (b).
9	Section 23. 121.905 (3) (c) 7. of the statutes is created to read:
10	121.905 (3) (c) 7. For the limit for the 2016-17 school year, add \$275 to the
11	result under par. (b)
12	Section 24. 121.905 (3) (c) 8. of the statutes is created to read:
13	121.905 (3) (c) 8. For the limit for the 2017–18 school year and any school year
14	thereafter, add the result under s. 121.91 $(2m)$ (j) 2. to the result under par. (b) .
15	Section 25. 121.91 (2m) (i) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:
16	121.91 (2m) (i) (intro.) Except as provided in subs. (3), (4), and (8), no school
17	district may increase its revenues for the 2015–16 school year or for any school year
18	thereafter to an amount that exceeds the amount calculated as follows:
19	Section 26. 121.91 (2m) (im) of the statutes is created to read:
20	121.91 (2m) (im) Except as provided in subs. (3), (4), and (8), no school district
21	may increase its revenues for the 2016-17 school year to an amount that exceeds the
22	amount calculated as follows:
23	1. Divide the sum of the amount of state aid received in the previous school year

and property taxes levied for the previous school year, excluding property taxes

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1	levied for the purpose of s. $120.13\ (19)$ and excluding funds described under sub. (4)
2	(c), by the average of the number of pupils enrolled in the 3 previous school years.
3	2. Add \$275 to the result under subd. 1.
4	3. Multiply the result under subd. 2. by the average of the number of pupils
5	enrolled in the current school year and the 2 preceding school years.
6	Section 27. 121.91 (2m) (j) of the statutes is created to read:
7	121.91 (2m) (j) Except as provided in subs. (3), (4), and (8), no school district
8	may increase its revenues for the 2017-18 school year or for any school year
9	thereafter to an amount that exceeds the amount calculated as follows:
10	1. Divide the sum of the amount of state aid received in the previous school year
11	and property taxes levied for the previous school year, excluding property taxes
12	levied for the purpose of s. $120.13(19)$ and excluding funds described under sub. (4)
13	(c), by the average of the number of pupils enrolled in the 3 previous school years.
14	2. Multiply the amount of the revenue increase per pupil allowed under this
15	subsection for the previous school year by the sum of 1.0 plus the allowable rate of
16	increase under s. 73.0305 expressed as a decimal.
17	3. Add the result under subd. 1. to the result under subd. 2.
18	4. Multiply the result under subd. 3. by the average of the number of pupils
19	enrolled in the current and the 2 preceding school years.
20	Section 28. 121.91 (2m) (r) 1. (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:
21	121.91 (2m) (r) 1. (intro.) Notwithstanding pars. (c) to (i) (j), if a school district
22	is created under s. 117.105 , its revenue limit under this section for the school year
23	beginning with the effective date of the reorganization shall be determined as follows
24	except as provided under subs. (3) and (4):

Section 29. 121.91 (2m) (r) 1. b. of the statutes is amended to read:

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121.91 (2m) (r) 1. b. Add an amount equal to the amount of revenue increase per pupil allowed under this subsection for the previous school year multiplied by the sum of 1.0 plus the allowable rate of increase under s. 73.0305 expressed as a decimal to the result under subd. 1. a., except that in calculating the limit for the 2013–14 school year and the 2014–15 school year, add \$75 to the result under subd. 1. a., and in calculating the limit for the 2015–16 school year and any school year thereafter, make no adjustment to the result under subd. 1. a., in calculating the limit for the 2016–17 school year, add \$275 to the result under subd. 1. a., and in calculating the limit for the 2017–18 school year and any school year thereafter, add the amount calculated under s. 121.91 (2m) (j) 3. for that school year to the result under subd. 1. a.

SECTION 30. 121.91 (2m) (s) 1. (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

121.91 **(2m)** (s) 1. (intro.) Notwithstanding pars. (e) to (i) (j), if territory is detached from a school district to create a new school district under s. 117.105, the revenue limit under this section of the school district from which territory is detached for the school year beginning with the effective date of the reorganization shall be determined as follows except as provided in subs. (3) and (4):

Section 31. 121.91 (2m) (s) 1. b. of the statutes is amended to read:

121.91 **(2m)** (s) 1. b. Add an amount equal to the amount of revenue increase per pupil allowed under this subsection for the previous school year multiplied by the sum of 1.0 plus the allowable rate of increase under s. 73.0305 expressed as a decimal to the result under subd. 1. a., except that in calculating the limit for the 2013–14 school year and the 2014–15 school year, add \$75 to the result under subd. 1. a., and in calculating the limit for the 2015–16 school year and any school year thereafter, make no adjustment to the result under subd. 1. a., in calculating the limit for the

2016-17 school year, add \$275 to the result under subd. 1. a., and in calculating the
limit for the 2017-18 school year and any school year thereafter, add the amount
calculated under s. 121.91 (2m) (j) 3. for that school year to the result under subd.
1. a.

Section 32. 121.91 (2m) (t) 1. (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

121.91 (2m) (t) 1. (intro.) If 2 or more school districts are consolidated under s. 117.08 or 117.09, except as follows, in the 2013–14 school year and the 2014–15 school year, the consolidated school district's revenue limit shall be determined as provided under par. (hm), and in the 2015–16 school year and in each school year thereafter, the consolidated school district's revenue limit shall be determined as provided under par. (i), in the 2016–17 school year, the consolidated school district's revenue limit shall be determined as provided under par. (im), and in the 2017–18 school year and in each school year thereafter, the consolidated school district's revenue limit shall be determined as provided under par. (j):

Section 33. Nonstatutory provisions.

(1) Secondary Guarantee. Notwithstanding section 121.07 (7) (b) of the statutes, for the purpose of setting the secondary guaranteed valuation per member in the 2016–17 school year, the department of public instruction shall treat the appropriation under section 20.255 (2) (ac) of the statutes as if an additional \$897,400,000 were appropriated in the 2016–17 fiscal year.

Section 34. Fiscal changes.

(1) High poverty aid. In the schedule under section 20.005 (3) of the statutes for the appropriation to the department of public instruction under section 20.255 (2) (bb) of the statutes, as affected by the acts of 2015, the dollar amount is decreased

by \$16,830,000 for the 2nd fiscal year of the fiscal biennium in which this subsection
takes effect to decrease funding for the purposes for which the appropriation is made.
SECTION 35. Initial applicability.
(1) State aid. The treatment of sections 20.255 (2) (ac), 121.004 (7) (a) and (g),
121.07 (6) (d), and 121.105 (2) (am) 1. and 2. (intro.) and (5) of the statutes first
applies to the distribution of school aid in, and the calculation of revenue limits for,
the 2016–17 school year.
(2) Delayed payment. The treatment of section 121.15 $(1m)$ (a) $(intro.)$ and 3.
of the statutes first applies to the payment made under section $121.15\ (1m)\ (a)$ of the
statutes on the 4th Monday in July 2017.
SECTION 36. Effective dates. This act takes effect on the day after publication,
except as follows:
(1) Per pupil aid. The treatment of sections 20.255 (2) (aq) and 115.437 of the
statutes takes effect on July 1, 2016.
(2) Payment of state aid; definition of state school aids. The amendment of

section 121.15 (3m) (a) 2. of the statutes takes effect on July 1, 2017.

(END)