



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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February 17, 2020

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 627/Senate Bill 563 Funding for University of Wisconsin System Extension Services

Assembly Bill 627 was introduced on November 21, 2019 and referred to the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities. The bill was withdrawn from this Committee on February 7, 2020, and referred to the Assembly Committee on Agriculture. The Committee held a public hearing on the bill on February 11, 2020. On the same date, the Committee recommended the bill for passage by a vote of 15-0.

Senate Bill 563, a companion bill to AB 627, was introduced on November 15, 2019 and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Revenue, and Financial Institutions. The Committee held a public hearing on the bill on February 6, 2020.

BACKGROUND

UW System academic department-based extension specialists are co-funded by the UW-Madison Division of Extension and academic departments at UW-Madison, UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls, and UW-Stevens Point. Faculty members conduct research and develop training programs in their respective fields of expertise. At UW-Madison, these faculty members are part of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs).

SUMMARY OF BILL

The bill would provide \$1,000,000 GPR annually beginning in 2019-20 in the UW System's general program operations appropriation and require the Board of Regents to allocate \$1,000,000 in each year from that appropriation to provide additional funding for state specialists providing extension services at the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences in the field of applied agricultural research. The bill would specify that this amount be in addition to any other

amount allocated to UW-Madison by the Board of Regents, and that it be a bona fide increase of funding above the level that would otherwise be provided in the absence of this provision.

FISCAL EFFECT

As noted above, the bill would increase the UW System's general program operations GPR appropriation (\$879.9 million in 2020-21) by \$1,000,000 annually beginning in 2019-20 and require the Board of Regents to allocate these funds to UW-Madison for extension specialists in CALS, in the field of agricultural research.

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