



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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February 21, 2022

TO: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Substitute Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 727/Senate Bill 677

On February 18, 2021, Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 727 was introduced. On February 21, Senate Substitute Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 677 was introduced. The companion bills would establish a grant program for nitrogen optimization projects, provide rebates for crop insurance purchased on acres using cover crops, and create a hydrogeologist position to share information on groundwater resources. The identical amendments generally maintain the programs of the original bill, but modify the funding mechanisms of each program.

### **SUMMARY OF SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1**

*Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).* The amendment would delete the new appropriations under DATCP and associated funding from the nonpoint account of the segregated (SEG) environmental fund. Instead, the nitrogen optimization and cover crop rebate programs would be funded from an existing nonpoint SEG appropriation at DATCP for soil and water resource management grants. The amendment would require DATCP to request funding under s. 13.10 of the statutes to support the programs, and the Committee would be authorized to make a supplement without the finding of an emergency. Additionally, the amendment would modify the emergency rulemaking process for the nitrogen optimization and cover crop rebate programs to restore requirements for a statement of scope and review by the Governor, and would no longer sunset the emergency rule after three years.

*UW System.* The amendment would fund the hydrogeologist position from existing UW System general operations GPR funding, but would retain the June 30, 2025, sunset of the position.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

The bills, as amended by their respective substitute amendments, would have no fiscal effect. DATCP would be required to request release of funding under s. 13.10 to support the nitrogen

optimization and cover crop rebate programs, and UW System would fund the hydrogeologist position within its existing budget.

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