



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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June 2, 2011

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #233

Harbor Assistance Program (Commerce and Transportation)

[LFB 2011-13 Budget Summary: Page 117, #8 (part)]

CURRENT LAW

The Harbor Assistance Program is administered by the Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Railroads, and Harbors, in the Department of Transportation (DOT), and provides financial assistance to harbor facilities on the Great Lakes and Mississippi River for projects that improve waterborne commerce.

GOVERNOR

Delete the statutory requirement that requires DOT, in consultation with Commerce, to establish criteria for evaluating applications for Harbor Assistance program grants.

MODIFICATION

Restore the statutory provision that requires DOT to establish criteria for evaluating harbor assistance grants, but delete the requirement that DOT consult with Commerce in establishing the criteria.

Explanation: Deleting the requirement that DOT establish criteria for evaluating applications for Harbor Assistance program grants was an error. Under AB 40, Commerce would be eliminated, and the agency's economic and community development functions would be transferred to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). As a result, Commerce responsibilities established in various sections of the statutes would also be eliminated. However, eliminating the entire section of the statutes related to establishing harbor assistance grant criteria was inadvertent. This modification would restore the provision requiring DOT to establish criteria, but eliminate the requirement that DOT consult with Commerce.

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