



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #456

Great Lakes Vessel Rental Appropriation (DNR -- Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation)

[LFB 2013-15 Budget Summary: Page 325, #2]

CURRENT LAW

The Department owns three Great Lakes research vessels maintained and operated by the Bureau of Fisheries Management, two Lake Michigan research vessels and a Lake Superior research vessel.

GOVERNOR

Create a continuing appropriation in the fish and wildlife account of the conservation fund for the deposit of all moneys received from the rental of Great Lakes research vessels that are rented for purposes other than the management of the state's fish and wildlife resources to pay the cost of providing DNR staff and other services associated with the rental. Further, specify that the Department's general SEG rental property and equipment appropriation under s. 20.370(7)(jr) of the statutes excludes money received under this newly-created appropriation.

MODIFICATION

Modify the governor's recommendation to specify the appropriation is for the deposit of all moneys received from the rental of Great Lakes research vessels that are rented for purposes other than "this state's" management of fish and wildlife resources.

Explanation: The bill language appears to exclude certain uses that the Department intended to be included, such as use by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a near-shore lake trout sampling, which would be, at least in part, for the purpose of management of Wisconsin's fish and wildlife resources. Modifying the language to instead specify that the appropriation is for the deposit of all moneys received from rentals for purposes other than *this state's* management of fish and wildlife resources, would cover the intended rental uses.

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