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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

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**2021 Assembly Bill 971**

**Assembly Amendment 1**

### 2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 971

Assembly Bill 971 makes changes regarding reading readiness assessments administered in four-year-old kindergarten (4K) to second grade, and generally prohibits school districts, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a school choice program (“choice school”) from promoting a third grade student to fourth grade unless the student scores proficient or higher on the standardized third grade reading test. The bill also requires school districts, independent charter schools, and choice schools to develop or adopt a program to identify and address students with dyslexia, and prohibits parents from opting students out of the reading readiness assessments or third grade standardized assessments.

In addition, Assembly Bill 971 sunsets the Achievement Growth Reduction (AGR) program. The program allows participating schools to enter five-year contracts with the Department of Public Instruction to implement certain strategies in kindergarten through third grade classrooms and receive additional funding for each low-income student in the participating grade levels. Current funding for the AGR program would be used for a reading teacher licensure grant program, created by the bill, to cover expenses and bonuses for teachers who obtain such licensure.

### ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 removes the provisions that sunset the AGR program and create the reading teacher licensure program.

### BILL HISTORY

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Wittke on February 17, 2022. On that date, the Assembly Committee on Education adopted the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 4. The committee then recommended adoption of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 5.

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