



## 2005 ASSEMBLY BILL 723

October 3, 2005 - Introduced by Representatives SHERMAN, TOWNSEND, BOYLE, HAHN, VRAKAS, PETROWSKI, LEHMAN, SHERIDAN, SEIDEL and MOLEPSKE, cosponsored by Senators JAUCH, GROTHMAN, ERPENBACH and DARLING. Referred to Committee on Urban and Local Affairs.

1     **AN ACT to amend** 16.25 (2), 16.25 (3) (a), 16.25 (3) (b), 16.25 (3) (c), 16.25 (3) (d)  
2             1., 16.25 (3) (e), 16.25 (3) (f), 16.25 (3) (g), 16.25 (3) (h), 16.25 (3) (i) 2. and 16.25  
3             (3) (j) of the statutes; **relating to:** authorization for counties to provide  
4             length-of-service awards for emergency medical technicians who perform  
5             services for the county.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, any county may, acting by itself or jointly with a municipality or hospital, operate an emergency medical services program. Current law also establishes a program under which a municipality that provides emergency medical services may provide length-of-service awards to qualifying emergency medical technicians who perform emergency medical services for the municipality. Annual contributions to the awards program by each municipality are matched by the state, subject to certain conditions and limitations.

This bill permits a county that operates an emergency medical services program to provide length-of-service awards to qualifying emergency medical technicians who perform services for the county. Under the bill, the awards may qualify for state matching contributions subject to the same conditions and limitations that currently apply.

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For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 16.25 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           16.25 (2) The board shall establish by rule a program to provide  
3 length-of-service awards, described in 26 USC 457 (e) (11), to volunteer fire fighters  
4 in municipalities that operate volunteer fire departments or that contract with  
5 volunteer fire companies organized under ch. 181 or 213 and to volunteer emergency  
6 medical technicians in any county or municipality that authorizes volunteer  
7 emergency medical technicians to provide emergency medical technical services in  
8 the county or municipality. To the extent permitted by federal law, the board shall  
9 design the program so as to treat the length-of-service awards as a tax-deferred  
10 benefit under the Internal Revenue Code.

11           **SECTION 2.** 16.25 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

12           16.25 (3) (a) All municipalities that operate volunteer fire departments or that  
13 contract with a volunteer fire company organized under ch. 181 or 213 and all  
14 counties and municipalities that authorize volunteer emergency medical technicians  
15 to provide emergency medical technical services are eligible to participate in the  
16 program.

17           **SECTION 3.** 16.25 (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

18           16.25 (3) (b) Annual contributions in an amount determined by the county or  
19 municipality shall be paid by each county or municipality for each volunteer fire  
20 fighter and emergency medical technician who provides services for the county or  
21 municipality.

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1           **SECTION 4.** 16.25 (3) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           16.25 (3) (c) The county or municipality may select from among the plans  
3 offered by individuals or organizations under contract with the board under sub. (4)  
4 for the volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical technicians who perform  
5 services for the county or municipality. The county or municipality shall pay the  
6 annual contributions directly to the individual or organization offering the plan  
7 selected by the county or municipality.

8           **SECTION 5.** 16.25 (3) (d) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

9           16.25 (3) (d) 1. Subject to subd. 2., the board shall match all annual county and  
10 municipal contributions paid for volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical  
11 technicians up to \$250 per fiscal year, other than contributions paid for the purchase  
12 of additional years of service under par. (e), to be paid from the appropriation account  
13 under s. 20.505 (4) (er). This amount shall be adjusted annually on July 1 to reflect  
14 any changes in the U.S. consumer price index for all urban consumers, U.S. city  
15 average, as determined by the U.S. department of labor, for the 12-month period  
16 ending on the preceding December 31. The board shall pay all amounts that are  
17 matched under this paragraph to the individuals and organizations offering the  
18 plans selected by the counties and municipalities.

19           **SECTION 6.** 16.25 (3) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:

20           16.25 (3) (e) A county or municipality may purchase additional years of service  
21 for volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical technicians who have at least 5  
22 years of service as a volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical technician for the  
23 county or municipality. The number of additional years of service that may be  
24 purchased under this paragraph may not exceed the number of years of volunteer fire

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1 fighting or emergency medical technical service performed by the volunteer fire  
2 fighter or emergency medical technician for the county or municipality.

3 **SECTION 7.** 16.25 (3) (f) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 16.25 (3) (f) Except in the case of a volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical  
5 technician or the beneficiary of a volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical  
6 technician eligible for a lump sum under par. (i), a vesting period of 10 years of  
7 volunteer fire fighting or emergency medical technical service for a county or  
8 municipality shall be required before a volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical  
9 technician may receive any benefits under the program.

10 **SECTION 8.** 16.25 (3) (g) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 16.25 (3) (g) A volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical technician shall be  
12 paid a ~~length of service~~ length-of-service award either in a lump sum or in a manner  
13 specified by rule, consisting of all county or municipal and state contributions made  
14 on behalf of the volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical technician and all  
15 earnings on the contributions, less any expenses incurred in the investment of the  
16 contributions and earnings, after the volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical  
17 technician attains 20 years of service for a county or municipality and reaches the  
18 age of 60. If a volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical technician has satisfied  
19 all vesting requirements under the program but has less than 20 years of service for  
20 a county or municipality or has not reached the age of 60, the program shall provide  
21 for the payment of a ~~length of service~~ length-of-service award either in a lump sum  
22 or in a manner specified by rule in an amount to be determined by the board, but less  
23 than the amount paid to a volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical technician  
24 who has attained 20 years of service for a county or municipality and has reached the  
25 age of 60.

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1           **SECTION 9.** 16.25 (3) (h) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           16.25 (3) (h) A volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical technician who has  
3 not met all of the vesting requirements under the program shall forfeit his or her  
4 accrued years of volunteer fire fighting or emergency medical technical service if he  
5 or she should cease providing volunteer fire fighting or emergency medical technical  
6 services for a county or municipality for a period of 6 months or more, unless he or  
7 she has been granted a leave of absence by his or her supervisor.

8           **SECTION 10.** 16.25 (3) (i) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

9           16.25 (3) (i) 2. A volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical technician who  
10 becomes disabled during his or her service as a volunteer fire fighter or emergency  
11 medical technician for the county or municipality shall be paid a ~~length-of-service~~  
12 length-of-service award either in a lump sum or in a manner specified by rule, in  
13 an amount to be determined by the board.

14           **SECTION 11.** 16.25 (3) (j) of the statutes is amended to read:

15           16.25 (3) (j) The account of any volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical  
16 technician who has not met all of the vesting requirements under the program, who  
17 has not provided volunteer fire fighting or emergency medical technical services for  
18 a county or municipality for a period of 6 months or more and who has not been  
19 granted a leave of absence by his or her supervisor shall be closed.

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(END)