



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 275 [2003 Senate Bill 440]	Governance of Public Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Districts and Contracts for a Statewide Lake Monitoring Network
2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/	Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

Act 275 modifies various statutes relating to the creation and governance of public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts and authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to award contracts for the creation and support of a statewide lake monitoring network.

Governance of Lake Districts

Act 275 makes the following changes in the laws relating to the creation and governance of public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts:

- Removes the condition that a county board must consider when creating a district--that the formation of the district will not cause or contribute to long-range environmental pollution.
- Adds to the duties of a district's board of commissioners that the board: schedule the annual meeting of the district; and prepare the proposed annual budget, with the specified content, for presentation at the annual meeting of the lake district.
- Directs the secretary of a district's board to prepare and send notices required for the annual meeting and any special meeting of the district and any meeting of the district's board and repeals the requirement that the secretary annually notify the DNR of the continued existence of the district.
- Establishes that no absentee ballots or proxies are permitted at the annual meeting or a special meeting of a district.
 - Specifies that the notice of a district's annual meeting must include the proposed annual budget and a list of other items proposed for consideration at the meeting. These other items must include items proposed for consideration using the specified process by persons eligible to vote at the meeting.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.

- Establishes that at a district's annual meeting, the electors within the district and owners of property within the district **attending** the meeting may: consider and vote on amendments to the budget before approving the budget; and finance in a nonlapsable fund not only specifically identified capital costs, as authorized under prior law, but also the maintenance of capital equipment.
- Requires written notice of a special meeting to be given to the same persons in the same manner as required for the annual meeting of the district.
- Caps the special charges that a district may impose at the rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.
- Authorizes the secretary of a district to certify the special charges of the district to the clerk of each municipality having property within the district for collection and settlement in the same manner as provided for the collection of property taxes under ch. 74, Stats.
- Repeals the requirement that, if two contiguous districts merge, the bylaws of the larger of the merging districts apply to the newly created district.

Contracts for a Statewide Lake Monitoring Network

Act 275 authorizes the DNR to award contracts to public groups or persons for their creation and support of a statewide lake monitoring network. A contract may include payment for the costs of all the following:

- Training, equipment, and supplies necessary for water quality sample collection.
- Handling, shipping, and laboratory analysis of water samples.
- Developing, maintaining, and managing a statewide database system for entering, tracking, evaluating, and reporting water quality results.
- Producing and distributing water quality results and reports.

The Act establishes that the DNR shall fund these contracts from the existing appropriation from the Conservation Fund for lake management planning grants and lake management and classification grants and contracts. The Act specifies that the total amount of lake monitoring contracts for each fiscal year may not exceed 10% of the total amount appropriated for these purposes.

The Act also directs the DNR to adopt rules for the administration of the lake monitoring contracts program. These rules must specify the eligible activities and qualifications for participation in the statewide lake monitoring network.

Effective Date: May 1, 2004.

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