



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2001 Senate Bill 300**

**Senate Substitute  
Amendment 1**

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### **Current Law**

Senate Bill 300 relates to the open enrollment program in public schools. Under the current program, a pupil may attend any public school located outside his or her school district or resident if the pupil's parent or guardian complies with certain procedures and meets certain application deadlines. The acceptance and rejection criteria used by school boards for open enrollment applications may include, among other things, the availability of space. As of January 1, 2002, a school board is permitted to include in its counting of occupied spaces, those pupils and siblings of pupils who are already attending schools in a nonresident school district. Further, if a nonresident school board receives more applications than there are spaces available, the nonresident school board must determine on a *random basis*, which pupils to accept after giving preference to pupils and siblings of pupils who are already attending school in a nonresident school district.

### **Provisions of Original Legislation**

As originally introduced, Senate Bill 300 required a school board to also give preference to pupils whose parents or guardians are employees of the nonresident school district and permitted a school board to include those pupils in its counts of occupied spaces. In addition, the original legislation allowed a school board to create a *waiting list* for open enrollment purposes. Finally, the legislation provided that the effective date of the law included an effective date of January 1, 2002 or on the day after publication, whichever was later.

**Provisions of Substitute Amendment**

The substitute amendment makes the following changes in the original bill:

1. The substitute amendment *eliminates* the provisions relating to giving preference to pupils whose parents or guardians are employees of the nonresident school district.
2. The substitute amendment specifies that the selection of students from the waiting list must be on a random basis.
3. The substitute amendment clarifies that the waiting list must be comprised of pupils whose applications were initially rejected by the school board.
4. The substitute amendment removes the effective date provision from the act and replaces it with an initial applicability provision. This provision specifies that the legislation *first* applies to pupils whose open enrollment applications were submitted on the first Monday in February following the effective date of the act.

**Committee Votes**

The Senate Education Committee in executive session on January 9, 2002, voted to introduce and adopt the substitute amendment on a vote of Ayes 11; Noes, 0. The committee voted to recommend passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 3.

RW:tlj;jal;ksm