



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2003 Assembly Bill 359

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 1**

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Current Law

Currently, the Governor is required to deliver a budget message to the Legislature and submit the executive budget bill or bills to the Legislature for introduction by the Joint Committee on Finance. Assembly Bill 359, as originally drafted, required that the executive budget bill or bills could not authorize expenditures in the succeeding fiscal biennium that exceed revenues or other moneys that the state was expected to receive in the succeeding fiscal biennium. Currently, s. 20.003 (4m), Stats., states that the Legislature may not adopt a bill if the bill would cause general fund expenditures, less any amounts transferred to the budget stabilization fund, in any fiscal year to exceed general fund revenues in that year. This provision is intended to require that for each fiscal year, the general fund is balanced, both on a cash structural basis by the Legislature.

Provisions of Substitute Amendment

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1, introduced by Representative Wieckert, requires that the language that applies to the Legislature under s. 20.003 (4m) would also apply to the executive budget bill or bills recommended for introduction by the Governor. Specifically, Substitute Amendment 1 provides that the executive budget bill or bills may not authorize expenditures in any year of the succeeding fiscal biennium that would cause, in any of those fiscal years, the amount of moneys designated as "Total Expenditures" in the summary under s. 20.005 (1) for that fiscal year, as published in the executive budget bill or bills, less any amounts transferred to the budget stabilization fund in that fiscal year, to exceed the sum of the amount of moneys designated as "Taxes" and "Departmental Revenues" in the summary under s. 20.005 (1) for that fiscal year, as published in the executive budget bill or bills.

Legislative History

2003 Assembly Bill 359 was introduced on May 28, 2003 by Representative Wieckert and others, cosponsored by Senator Kanavas and others. The bill was referred to the Assembly Committee on Budget Review and a public hearing was held by that committee on August 12, 2003. Representative Wieckert introduced Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on February 11, 2004. At an executive session held on February 24, 2004, the Assembly Budget Review Committee voted to adopt Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 and recommend the bill for passage, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 7; Noes, 0; and Absent, 1.

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