



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2003 Senate Bill 384

**Senate Amendment 1 and
Senate Substitute Amendment 2**

Memo published: March 5, 2004

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Senate Substitute Amendment 2 to 2003 Senate Bill 384 creates a “Wisconsin Advantage Jobs Training Program.” Senate Substitute Amendment 2 provides that a technical college district board, with the approval of the state Technical College Board may on its own or jointly with any other entity, contract with a business located in the district to provide the business with one or more of the following:

1. Training for jobs created or retained by the business.
2. Adult basic education.
3. Vocational and skill-assessment services.
4. Training facilities, equipment, and material.
5. Professional services.

Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 2 provides that the district board may not increase its tax levy to support the Wisconsin Advantage Jobs Training Program.

Original Legislation

Under Senate Bill 384, as originally introduced, the district board was authorized to establish a regional project for the creation and retention of jobs entitled the “Wisconsin Advantage Program.” The contracted services enumerated in the bill were the same as those contained in Senate Substitute Amendment 2.

However, the original bill stated that a district board could not enter into a contract in which the cost per trainee exceeded \$3,500. Also, the bill contained a provision for allowing the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) to permit the district board to exceed the \$3,500 limit. Senate Bill 384 also required the state board to ensure that the total costs of the contracts did not exceed \$10,000,000 in any fiscal

year unless the JFC approved a higher limit. Furthermore, Senate Bill 384 would have permitted a district board to issue revenue bonds to finance the costs of providing these services and materials to businesses. The bill originally required the Department of Revenue (DOR) to determine the amount of wages from which income tax withholding is calculated for an individual who has been provided training or education by a technical college district under a contract as described above and calculate the total for each technical college district. DOR was then required to certify the names of the individuals to the Department of Commerce and also certify 1.5% of the amount calculated for each technical college district to the Technical College System Board which could then distribute the amounts to the districts.

The original bill also authorized a district board to organize a nonstock corporation for the purposes of raising funds and providing support to the district.

None of these provisions which appeared in the original legislation are part of Senate Substitute Amendment 2. It should be noted that the fiscal support for the program has been incorporated into Senate Substitute Amendment 1 to 2003 Senate Bill 451. That bill provides for transferring funds from the Wisconsin Development Fund to support a grant program for the purposes enumerated in 2003 Senate Bill 384.

The Assembly companion bill to Senate Bill 384 is Assembly Bill 796. The Assembly companion bill to Senate Bill 451 is Assembly Bill 811.

Legislative History

Senate Bill 384 was introduced on January 14, 2004, by Senator Leibham and others, cosponsored by Representative Wieckert and others, and referred to the Senate Select Committee on Job Creation. The committee held a public hearing on February 2, 2004. In executive session, the committee on February 12 reported adoption of Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 4; Noes, 1. The committee voted to recommend passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2. The bill was referred to the JFC on February 18, 2004. On March 3, 2004, the JFC reported introduction and adoption of Senate Substitute Amendment 2 on a vote of Ayes, 12; Noes, 4. The committee then reported passage, as amended, on an identical vote.

The Senate, on March 4, 2004, adopted Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 2, introduced by Senator Leibham, on a voice vote. The Senate adopted Senate Substitute Amendment 2, as amended, and voted to pass the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 17; Noes, 16.

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