



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2007 Senate Bill 480

**Senate
Amendments 1 and 3**

Memo published: March 4, 2008

Contact: Pam Shannon, Senior Staff Attorney (266-2680)

Senate Bill 480, a companion bill to Assembly Bill 794, consolidates five current Department of Commerce (Commerce) development zone programs into a single economic development tax benefit program. The five programs to be consolidated are: (1) the community development zone program; (2) the enterprise development zone program; (3) the agricultural development zone program; (4) the technology zone program; and (5) the airport development zone program.

Under the consolidated program, tax benefits may be awarded to businesses that are certified by, and contract with, Commerce to undertake specified eligible activities anywhere in the state. The four types of eligible activities for which a business may be certified are: (1) job creation; (2) capital investment; (3) employee training; and (4) location or retention of corporate headquarters in Wisconsin. Commerce must develop administrative rules relating to these eligible activities.

The bill requires Commerce to submit a comprehensive annual report by October 1 to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee and appropriate standing committees in each house, assessing the activities of all Commerce economic development programs in the previous fiscal year. Commerce must make the reported information available to the public via the Internet.

The bill also requires Commerce to submit an annual report, six months after the comprehensive report is submitted, assessing the consolidated tax benefit program created in the bill. This report is intended to update information about the consolidated program contained in the comprehensive annual report.

Senate Amendment 1 inserts a statutory citation that was unintentionally omitted from the bill, which is needed to make clear that a number of rule-making requirements relating to the *current* development zone programs do *not* apply to the consolidated program created in the bill. The consolidated program instead has its own extensive rule-making requirements.

Senate Amendment 3: (1) adds a cross-reference suggested by the Department of Revenue; and (2) provides that Commerce must make information from the report on the consolidated program readily accessible to the public via the Internet, as is required for the comprehensive annual report.

Legislative History

Senate Amendment 1 was introduced by Senator Julie Lassa on February 19, 2008. On February 21, 2008, the Senate Committee on Economic Development adopted Senate Amendment 1 and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, both on votes of Ayes, 7; Noes, 0.

On February 26, 2008, Senate Amendment 3 was introduced by Senator Julie Lassa. On March 4, 2008, the Senate adopted Senate Amendments 1 and 3 and passed the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 33; Noes, 0.

PS:ty:ksm