



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2019 Assembly Bill 119

**Assembly
Amendments 1 and 2**

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2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 119

2019 Assembly Bill 119 addresses three aspects of the state shelter subsidy grant program. First, the bill increases the appropriation for the program by \$500,000, for each of the next two fiscal years (2019-20 and 2020-21). In the 2017-19 biennium, \$1,113,600 was provided for each year, for the program, from the shelter for homeless and housing grants appropriation.

Second, the bill identifies certain performance metrics that the Department of Administration (DOA) must consider in determining a shelter's eligibility for a grant under the program. The criteria include the number of shelter days that are expected to be provided, the shelter's history of successfully transitioning individuals to permanent housing, and whether the shelter provides intensive case management services, among other metrics, each of which must be considered in light of how a shelter's rules, policies, and procedures may impact how the criteria apply. Under current law, DOA must consider the purpose and particular need for the funding, and whether the community in which the shelter is located has a coordinated system of services for homeless persons.

DOA must apply the new criteria immediately for any grant using the additional funding, and must phase in the metrics to apply to all grants beginning in fiscal year 2023-24.

Lastly, the bill directly modifies certain provisions of DOA's administrative rules for the program, in order to correctly match the grant calculation given in the statutes.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 revises the method of providing the additional funding. Rather than increasing the scheduled appropriation, the amendment utilizes the procedure available under current law by which the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) may supplement an

appropriation if it finds that funds are not available to accomplish the purpose of an authorized program and it finds that an emergency exists. Under the amendment, if DOA requests amounts from any supplemental funding set aside for the 2019-21 biennium, JCF may approve the additional funding for the program without finding that an emergency exists.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2

Assembly Amendment 2 removes a provision in current law that prohibits DOA from awarding a state shelter subsidy grant to a facility or private home that provides shelter for victims of domestic abuse.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 3

Assembly Amendment 3 adds a new provision. It requires the Department of Health Services to request a waiver or amendment from the federal government, in the administration of the state medical assistance program, to allow the program to provide intensive case management services to assist homeless persons enrolled in the program in obtaining permanent housing.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Steineke offered Assembly Amendment 1 on May 30, 2019, and Assembly Amendment 2 on June 3, 2019.

On June 4, 2019, the Assembly Committee on Public Benefit Reform adopted Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 3; and Assembly Amendment 2 on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 1. The committee recommended passage of the bill, as amended by Assembly Amendments 1 and 2, on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0.

On June 14, 2019, Representative Steineke offered Assembly Amendment 3.

On June 18, 2019, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendments 1, 2, and 3, and passed the bill, as amended, on voice votes.

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