
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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Contact: David Moore, Senior Staff Attorney

2021 Senate Bill 374

Senate Amendment 1

CURRENT LAW

Under current law, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) contracts with local agencies to establish regional collapse support teams. DMA reimburses a regional collapse support team only if the team determines that a structural collapse emergency requiring a response existed as provided under rules promulgated by DMA, and only to the extent DMA collects from the party responsible for the costs.

The 2021-23 Biennial Budget Act created a continuing general purpose revenue (GPR) appropriation for training and equipment for “urban search and rescue teams” and reserved \$500,000 in the Joint Committee on Finance’s supplemental appropriation for an urban search and rescue task force. The budget act also created a continuing program revenue appropriation to support urban search and rescue taskforce deployments and reimbursements to local agencies for increases in duty disability premium contributions for employees who receive those benefits because of an injury incurred as a task force member.

2021 SENATE BILL 374

2021 Senate Bill 374 changes the designation of regional collapse support teams to “urban search and rescue” teams. Under the bill, an urban search and rescue task force designated by DMA shall assist in an emergency response “involving search, rescue, and recovery in the technical rescue disciplines to include structural collapse, rope rescue, vehicle extrication, machinery extrication, confined space, trench excavation, and water operations in an urban search rescue environment.”

The bill also modifies the current limitations on DMA’s reimbursement authority and requires DMA to reimburse a local agency that participates in an urban search and rescue task force, regardless of whether DMA collects from the party responsible for the costs. Under the bill, DMA must reimburse a local agency within 60 days after receiving a complete application for reimbursement on a form prescribed by the division if the agency applies for reimbursement within 45 days after the conclusion of the deployment of the regional emergency response team.

The bill also creates an appropriation for training and equipment for an urban search and rescue task force; and an appropriation for supporting task force deployments and reimbursing local agencies for increased duty disability premiums for employees who receive duty disability benefits because of an injury sustained while performing duties as a member of an urban search and rescue task force.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 removes the language in the bill that creates the appropriations discussed above, and inserts a cross-reference to the appropriations as created by the 2021-23 Biennial Budget Act.

Accordingly, the amendment retains the appropriation structure provided by the 2021-23 Biennial Budget Act.

BILL HISTORY

Senator Ballweg offered Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 374 on July 19, 2021. On September 23, 2021, the Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs and Constitutionalism and Federalism voted unanimously to recommend adoption of Senate Amendment 1 and passage of Senate Bill 374, as amended.

DM:jal