



2005 SENATE BILL 432

November 15, 2005 – Introduced by Senators JAUCH, GROTHMAN, ERPENBACH and DARLING, cosponsored by Representatives SHERMAN, TOWNSEND, BOYLE, HAHN, PETROWSKI, LEHMAN, SHERIDAN, SEIDEL, MOLEPSKE and OTT. Referred to Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 16.25 (2), 16.25 (3) (a), 16.25 (3) (b), 16.25 (3) (c), 16.25 (3) (d)
2 1., 16.25 (3) (e), 16.25 (3) (f), 16.25 (3) (g), 16.25 (3) (h), 16.25 (3) (i) 2. and 16.25
3 (3) (j) of the statutes; **relating to:** authorization for counties to provide
4 length-of-service awards for emergency medical technicians who perform
5 services for the county.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, any county may, acting by itself or jointly with a municipality or hospital, operate an emergency medical services program. Current law also establishes a program under which a municipality that provides emergency medical services may provide length-of-service awards to qualifying emergency medical technicians who perform emergency medical services for the municipality. Annual contributions to the awards program by each municipality are matched by the state, subject to certain conditions and limitations.

This bill permits a county that operates an emergency medical services program to provide length-of-service awards to qualifying emergency medical technicians who perform services for the county. Under the bill, the awards may qualify for state matching contributions subject to the same conditions and limitations that currently apply.

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For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 16.25 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 16.25 (2) The board shall establish by rule a program to provide
3 length-of-service awards, described in 26 USC 457 (e) (11), to volunteer fire fighters
4 in municipalities that operate volunteer fire departments or that contract with
5 volunteer fire companies organized under ch. 181 or 213 and to volunteer emergency
6 medical technicians in any county or municipality that authorizes volunteer
7 emergency medical technicians to provide emergency medical technical services in
8 the county or municipality. To the extent permitted by federal law, the board shall
9 design the program so as to treat the length-of-service awards as a tax-deferred
10 benefit under the Internal Revenue Code.

11 **SECTION 2.** 16.25 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 16.25 (3) (a) All municipalities that operate volunteer fire departments or that
13 contract with a volunteer fire company organized under ch. 181 or 213 and all
14 counties and municipalities that authorize volunteer emergency medical technicians
15 to provide emergency medical technical services are eligible to participate in the
16 program.

17 **SECTION 3.** 16.25 (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 16.25 (3) (b) Annual contributions in an amount determined by the county or
19 municipality shall be paid by each county or municipality for each volunteer fire
20 fighter and emergency medical technician who provides services for the county or
21 municipality.

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1 **SECTION 4.** 16.25 (3) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 16.25 (3) (c) The county or municipality may select from among the plans
3 offered by individuals or organizations under contract with the board under sub. (4)
4 for the volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical technicians who perform
5 services for the county or municipality. The county or municipality shall pay the
6 annual contributions directly to the individual or organization offering the plan
7 selected by the county or municipality.

8 **SECTION 5.** 16.25 (3) (d) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

9 16.25 (3) (d) 1. Subject to subd. 2., the board shall match all annual county and
10 municipal contributions paid for volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical
11 technicians up to \$250 per fiscal year, other than contributions paid for the purchase
12 of additional years of service under par. (e), to be paid from the appropriation account
13 under s. 20.505 (4) (er). This amount shall be adjusted annually on July 1 to reflect
14 any changes in the U.S. consumer price index for all urban consumers, U.S. city
15 average, as determined by the U.S. department of labor, for the 12-month period
16 ending on the preceding December 31. The board shall pay all amounts that are
17 matched under this paragraph to the individuals and organizations offering the
18 plans selected by the counties and municipalities.

19 **SECTION 6.** 16.25 (3) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 16.25 (3) (e) A county or municipality may purchase additional years of service
21 for volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical technicians who have at least 5
22 years of service as a volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical technician for the
23 county or municipality. The number of additional years of service that may be
24 purchased under this paragraph may not exceed the number of years of volunteer fire

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1 fighting or emergency medical technical service performed by the volunteer fire
2 fighter or emergency medical technician for the county or municipality.

3 **SECTION 7.** 16.25 (3) (f) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 16.25 (3) (f) Except in the case of a volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical
5 technician or the beneficiary of a volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical
6 technician eligible for a lump sum under par. (i), a vesting period of 10 years of
7 volunteer fire fighting or emergency medical technical service for a county or
8 municipality shall be required before a volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical
9 technician may receive any benefits under the program.

10 **SECTION 8.** 16.25 (3) (g) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 16.25 (3) (g) A volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical technician shall be
12 paid a ~~length of service~~ length-of-service award either in a lump sum or in a manner
13 specified by rule, consisting of all county or municipal and state contributions made
14 on behalf of the volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical technician and all
15 earnings on the contributions, less any expenses incurred in the investment of the
16 contributions and earnings, after the volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical
17 technician attains 20 years of service for a county or municipality and reaches the
18 age of 60. If a volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical technician has satisfied
19 all vesting requirements under the program but has less than 20 years of service for
20 a county or municipality or has not reached the age of 60, the program shall provide
21 for the payment of a ~~length of service~~ length-of-service award either in a lump sum
22 or in a manner specified by rule in an amount to be determined by the board, but less
23 than the amount paid to a volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical technician
24 who has attained 20 years of service for a county or municipality and has reached the
25 age of 60.

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1 **SECTION 9.** 16.25 (3) (h) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 16.25 (3) (h) A volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical technician who has
3 not met all of the vesting requirements under the program shall forfeit his or her
4 accrued years of volunteer fire fighting or emergency medical technical service if he
5 or she should cease providing volunteer fire fighting or emergency medical technical
6 services for a county or municipality for a period of 6 months or more, unless he or
7 she has been granted a leave of absence by his or her supervisor.

8 **SECTION 10.** 16.25 (3) (i) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

9 16.25 (3) (i) 2. A volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical technician who
10 becomes disabled during his or her service as a volunteer fire fighter or emergency
11 medical technician for the county or municipality shall be paid a ~~length-of-service~~
12 length-of-service award either in a lump sum or in a manner specified by rule, in
13 an amount to be determined by the board.

14 **SECTION 11.** 16.25 (3) (j) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 16.25 (3) (j) The account of any volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical
16 technician who has not met all of the vesting requirements under the program, who
17 has not provided volunteer fire fighting or emergency medical technical services for
18 a county or municipality for a period of 6 months or more and who has not been
19 granted a leave of absence by his or her supervisor shall be closed.

20

(END)