



2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 597

November 24, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives VRUWINK, DANOU, SINICKI, SOLETSKI, HUEBSCH, DAVIS, BALLWEG, M. WILLIAMS and ZEPNICK, cosponsored by Senators COWLES, SCHULTZ, KAPANKE and HANSEN. Referred to Committee on State Affairs and Homeland Security.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 32.03 (7) of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring the University
2 of Wisconsin System to obtain the approval of the Joint Committee on Finance
3 in order to acquire property by condemnation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System (board) to acquire property by condemnation. This bill requires the board, whenever it intends to acquire property by condemnation, to notify the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF). The notice must describe the project, explain its public purpose, specify the status of and schedule for construction, and identify the funding for the project.

The bill requires JCF to schedule a public hearing on the intended condemnation. Members of the board, including the chairperson of the board's capital planning and budget committee, and appropriate board staff, must attend the hearing. After the hearing, the board must provide a written response to all questions asked at the hearing by JCF members and members of the public.

Finally, the bill prohibits the board from acquiring property by condemnation unless the committee approves the condemnation by at least a three-quarters vote of the members, taken by roll call. If the condemnation is approved, the board must provide JCF with periodic reports as it proceeds with the project.

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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.** 32.03 (7) of the statutes is created to read:

2 32.03 (7) (a) In this subsection:

3 1. “Board” means the board of regents of the University of Wisconsin System.

4 2. “Committee” means the joint committee on finance.

5 (b) If the board intends to acquire property by condemnation, it shall notify the
6 committee in writing. The notice shall describe the project, explain its public
7 purpose, specify the status of and schedule for construction, and identify the funding
8 for the project.

9 (c) The cochairpersons of the committee shall schedule a public hearing on the
10 board’s intended condemnation. Members of the board, including the chairperson of
11 the board’s capital planning and budget committee, and appropriate board staff,
12 shall appear at the hearing for the information of the committee. Testimony shall
13 be allowed from members of the public.

14 (d) Within a reasonable period after the hearing, the board shall provide to the
15 committee a written response to all questions asked at the hearing by committee
16 members and members of the public.

17 (e) The board may not acquire property for the project by condemnation without
18 the approval, by roll call vote, of at least three-quarters of all members of the
19 committee.

