



2017 SENATE BILL 16

January 26, 2017 - Introduced by Senators RINGHAND, L. TAYLOR, C. LARSON and VINEHOUT, cosponsored by Representatives BARCA, SPREITZER, CONSIDINE, POPE, VRUWINK, DOYLE, GOYKE, KOLSTE, OHNSTAD, CROWLEY, SINICKI, HESSELBEIN, WACHS, MASON, BERCEAU, SARGENT, ZAMARRIPA, BOWEN, MILROY, ANDERSON, BILLINGS, SHANKLAND, MEYERS, FIELDS and SUBECK. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Commerce and Local Government.

1 AN ACT *to create* 238.137 of the statutes; **relating to:** entrepreneurial
2 assistance grants and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill authorizes the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to award an entrepreneurial assistance grant of up to \$3,000 to a new business for expenses related to hiring, as a paid intern, a student enrolled at an institution of higher education who studies business, engineering, information technology, or a similar field. Under the bill, a new business is a business organized in this state no earlier than five years before the business applies for an entrepreneurial assistance grant. Additionally, if WEDC awards an entrepreneurial assistance grant to three or more businesses to fund internships for students enrolled at a single institution of higher education, and the institution develops a program to support internships funded by these grants, WEDC may award an additional grant of up to \$25,000 to the institution. Finally, the bill requires WEDC to allocate at least \$125,000 in each fiscal year to fund grants authorized under the bill and to submit a report on the effectiveness of those grants to the legislature no later than February 1, 2021.

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:

SENATE BILL 16**SECTION 1**

1 **SECTION 1.** 238.137 of the statutes is created to read:

2 **238.137 Entrepreneurial assistance grants. (1)** In this section:

3 (a) “Institution of higher education” means an institution within the University
4 of Wisconsin System, a technical college, or a private, nonprofit institution of higher
5 education located in this state.

6 (b) “New business” means a business organized in this state on a date not more
7 than 60 months before the date on which the business applies for a grant under sub.
8 (2).

9 **(2)** The corporation may award to a new business a grant of up to \$3,000 for
10 expenses related to hiring a paid intern who will assist with research, marketing,
11 business plan development, or other functions relating to the creation of a new
12 business. A recipient may use the grant under this subsection only for hiring a
13 student who is enrolled in an institution of higher education in the field of business,
14 engineering, or information technology or in a similar field as determined by the
15 corporation.

16 **(3)** If the corporation awards grants under sub. (2) to 3 or more businesses to
17 fund internships for students enrolled in a single institution of higher education, and
18 the institution of higher education develops a program to facilitate internships
19 funded with grants under sub. (2), the corporation may award a grant of up to
20 \$25,000 to the institution of higher education for costs associated with hiring interns
21 under sub. (2), including faculty or staff time and curriculum development. If the
22 corporation lacks sufficient funds to award grants to all qualified applicants, the
23 corporation shall allocate available funds to applicants that have the greatest
24 potential to create jobs in this state.

