



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4557/1
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2015 SENATE BILL 661

February 1, 2016 – Introduced by Senators TIFFANY and MOULTON, cosponsored by Representatives TRANEL, QUINN, E. BROOKS, NOVAK, NERISON, SWEARINGEN, BERNIER, PETRYK, EDMING, KRUG, MACCO, KITCHENS, T. LARSON, HORLACHER, MURSAU, SPIROS, MURTHA, MURPHY, KULP, VANDERMEER, TAUCHEN, A. OTT, BALLWEG, CZAJA and RIPP. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 20.255 (2) (ds); and **to create** 115.45 of the statutes; **relating**
2 **to:** science, technology, engineering, and mathematics grants for rural school
3 districts, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, requiring
4 the exercise of rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Public Instruction to award grants to rural school districts for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, and expanding educational programming related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Under the bill, a rural school district is defined as a school district with a membership of not more than 1,000 pupils and a population density of less than 12 pupils per square mile of the school district's area. A condition for receiving one of these grants is that the recipient must secure or provide matching funds equal to at least 10 percent of the grant amount. Finally, the bill establishes a minimum grant amount of \$3,000 and a maximum annual grant amount of \$20,000.

For further information see the ***state and local*** 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:

5 **SECTION 1.** 20.255 (2) (ds) of the statutes is amended to read:

SENATE BILL 661**SECTION 1**

1 20.255 (2) (ds) *STEM grants; rural school districts*. Biennially, the amounts
2 in the schedule to award grants for science, technology, engineering, and
3 mathematics courses under ~~2013 Wisconsin Act 20, section 9134 (5q) s. 115.45~~.

4 **SECTION 2.** 115.45 of the statutes is created to read:

5 **115.45 Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics grants;**
6 **rural school districts.** (1) In this section:

7 (a) “Membership” has the meaning given in s. 121.004 (5).

8 (b) “Rural school district” means a school district that satisfies all of the
9 following criteria:

10 1. The school district’s membership in the previous school year was no more
11 than 1,000 pupils.

12 2. The school district’s membership in the previous school year divided by the
13 school district’s area in square miles is less than 12.

14 **(2)** Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, the department shall award to rural
15 school districts grants to establish, maintain, and expand educational programming
16 related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The department may
17 not award a grant under this subsection unless the rural school district secures or
18 provides from private or public sources matching funds equal to at least 10 percent
19 of the amount of the grant. The match may be in the form of money or in-kind goods
20 or services, or both.

21 **(3)** The department shall award grants under sub. (2) from the appropriation
22 under s. 20.255 (2) (ds).

23 **(4)** The department shall promulgate rules to implement and administer this
24 section. The rules shall include all of the following:

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1 (a) The department may not award a grant under this section in an amount less
2 than \$3,000.

3 (b) The department may not award more than \$20,000 under this section to a
4 rural school district in any fiscal year.

5 (c) The department shall give priority to applications for grants under this
6 section in the following order:

7 1. An application to establish science, technology, engineering, and
8 mathematics educational programming in a rural school district that does not offer
9 such educational programming.

10 2. An application to expand the science, technology, engineering, and
11 mathematics educational programming offered in a rural school district that offers
12 such educational programming.

13 3. An application to maintain the science, technology, engineering, and
14 mathematics educational programming offered by a rural school district.

15 **SECTION 3. Nonstatutory provisions.**

16 (1) STEM GRANTS; RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS. The department of public
17 instruction may promulgate emergency rules under section 227.24 of the statutes
18 implementing section 115.45 of the statutes, as created by this act. Notwithstanding
19 section 227.24 (1) (c) and (2) of the statutes, emergency rules promulgated under this
20 subsection remain in effect until July 1, 2017, or the date on which permanent rules
21 take effect, whichever is sooner. Notwithstanding section 227.24 (1) (a) and (3) of the
22 statutes, the department is not required to provide evidence that promulgating a rule
23 under this subsection as an emergency rule is necessary for the preservation of the
24 public peace, health, safety, or welfare and is not required to provide a finding of
25 emergency for a rule promulgated under this subsection.

