



State of Wisconsin  
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5273/1  
MDK:ahc

## 2019 SENATE BILL 712

January 24, 2020 - Introduced by Senators DARLING, COWLES, LARSON, OLSEN, PETROWSKI, TESTIN and WIRCH, cosponsored by Representatives NOVAK, SHANKLAND, TRANEL, KRUG, SUMMERFIELD, KURTZ, POPE, HEBL, KITCHENS, FELZKOWSKI, ANDERSON, BALLWEG, CABRERA, CONSIDINE, DOYLE, EDMING, EMERSON, GRUSZYNSKI, KATZMA, KOLSTE, KULP, MACCO, MAGNAFICI, MILROY, MURPHY, MURSAU, NEUBAUER, OHNSTAD, PETRYK, PLUMER, SARGENT, SINICKI, SKOWRONSKI, SPREITZER, STUBBS, SUBECK, SWEARINGEN, TAUCHEN, BILLINGS, C. TAYLOR, TUSLER, VINING, VRUWINK, ZAMARRIPA, ZIMMERMAN, ALLEN and SPIROS. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

- 1     **AN ACT to create** 20.285 (1) (ar) and 36.25 (56) of the statutes; **relating to:**  
2             funding a University of Wisconsin System freshwater collaborative and making  
3             an appropriation.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill makes an appropriation for the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System to fund a freshwater collaborative among no more than six UW institutions that has the following purposes: 1) studying the challenge of water quality management, including a focus on nutrient runoff, farm policy impacts, and other issues; and 2) studying the challenge of water quality and safety, including a focus on treatment, contamination, and other issues. The bill requires the freshwater collaborative to do all of the following to accomplish those purposes: 1) devise new watercentric training programs focused on undergraduates; 2) provide an opportunity for students to participate in a work-study internship program in a state office that coordinates state water policy; 3) provide scholarships and student support to retain and attract new talent; 4) amplify marketing and recruiting relating to Wisconsin's role in freshwater science; 5) enhance workforce development programming; and 6) recruit new faculty and staff for training programs, research, and innovation.

The bill requires the Board of Regents to establish metrics for determining the success of the freshwater collaborative and submit those metrics to the Joint Committee on Finance. The Board of Regents may expend the moneys appropriated under the bill if JCF does not schedule a meeting to review the metrics. However,

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if JCF schedules a meeting, the moneys may be expended only after JCF approves or modifies the metrics.

The Board of Regents must appoint a nine-member committee to advise the board on how to allocate the funding among UW institutions. One member is the UW System president. The Board of Regents must appoint two members who are nationally recognized objective experts who have shown expertise in the field of water science. Those two members must be selected from a list of five individuals recommended by the UW System president. The senate majority leader and assembly speaker each appoint two members with one representing the agricultural industry and the other representing a private sector nonagricultural industry. Finally, the governor appoints two members with one representing a private sector nonagricultural industry and the other representing a municipal water utility of a second class city with a population of less than 150,000.

The bill also requires the Board of Regents to submit a biennial report to the Joint Committee on Finance and other legislative committees that shows how funding under the bill is distributed and expended at each UW institution, as well as information on demographics and accomplishments of the collaborative.

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

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

1           **SECTION 1.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert  
2 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

**2019-20            2020-21**

3   **20.285    University of Wisconsin System**

4   (1)   UNIVERSITY EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND PUBLIC  
5       SERVICE

6   (ar)   Freshwater collaborative                   GPR    C                   -0-    2,000,000

7           **SECTION 2.** 20.285 (1) (ar) of the statutes is created to read:

8           20.285 (1) (ar) *Freshwater collaborative.* As a continuing appropriation, the  
9 amounts in the schedule to provide funding for a freshwater collaborative under s.  
10 36.25 (56) (a).

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1           **SECTION 3.** 36.25 (56) of the statutes is created to read:

2           **36.25 (56) FRESHWATER COLLABORATIVE.** (a) From the appropriation under s.  
3           20.285 (1) (ar) and subject to par. (c), the board shall fund a freshwater collaborative  
4           among no more than 6 institutions that has the following purposes:

5           1. Studying the challenge of agriculture water management, including a focus  
6           on nutrient runoff and groundwater contamination, water withdrawal for irrigation,  
7           and the impact of water management practices on farm policy, including changes to  
8           farm efficiencies, production, and profit margins.

9           2. Studying the challenge of water quality and safety, including a focus on  
10          emerging contaminants, effective treatment techniques, nutrient contamination,  
11          well contamination, surface water contamination, lead contamination, legacy  
12          contamination, and safe drinking water compliance.

13          (b) The freshwater collaborative funded under par. (a) shall do all of the  
14          following to accomplish the purposes specified in par. (a):

15          1. Devise new watercentric training programs focused on undergraduates.

16          2. Provide an opportunity for students to participate in a work-study  
17          internship program in a state office that coordinates state water policy. The board  
18          shall determine the number of credits that students earn in the program.

19          3. Provide scholarships and student support to retain and attract new talent.

20          4. Amplify marketing and recruiting relating to Wisconsin's role in freshwater  
21          science.

22          5. Enhance workforce development programming, including internships,  
23          research experiences, training institutes, and graduate research.

24          6. Recruit new faculty and staff for training programs, research, and  
25          innovation.

**SENATE BILL 712****SECTION 3**

1           (c) The board shall establish metrics for determining the success of the  
2 freshwater collaborative in accomplishing its purposes. No moneys may be expended  
3 from the appropriation under s. 20.285 (1) (ar) unless the board submits the metrics  
4 to the joint committee on finance and, within 14 working days after the submittal,  
5 the cochairpersons of the committee do not notify the board that the committee has  
6 scheduled a meeting to review the metrics. If, within 14 working days after the  
7 submittal, the cochairpersons of the committee notify the board that the committee  
8 has scheduled a meeting to review the metrics, no moneys may be expended from the  
9 appropriation under s. 20.285 (1) (ar) unless the committee approves or modifies the  
10 metrics.

11           (d) The board shall appoint a committee to advise the board on how to allocate  
12 the funding under par. (a) among the institutions. The committee shall consist of the  
13 following:

14           1. The president of the system or his or her designee.

15           2. Two members appointed by the board who are nationally recognized  
16 objective experts who have shown expertise in the field of water science. The 2  
17 members shall be selected from a list of 5 individuals recommended by the president  
18 of the system or his or her designee.

19           3. Two members appointed by the majority leader of the senate. One of the  
20 members shall represent the agricultural industry and the other member shall  
21 represent a private sector nonagricultural industry.

22           4. Two members appointed by the speaker of the assembly. One of the members  
23 shall represent the agricultural industry and the other member shall represent a  
24 private sector nonagricultural industry.

