



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5099/1
MCP:skw

2023 SENATE BILL 774

December 8, 2023 - Introduced by Senators SMITH, LARSON, ROYS, HESSELBEIN, AGARD, TAYLOR and SPREITZER, cosponsored by Representatives DOYLE, PALMERI, RATCLIFF, CONSIDINE, STUBBS, MOORE OMOKUNDE, CONLEY, EMERSON, JOERS, SUBECK, JACOBSON, J. ANDERSON, NEUBAUER, BALDEH, OHNSTAD, CLANCY, SHANKLAND, SHELTON, SINICKI, VINING, C. ANDERSON and MADISON. Referred to Committee on Agriculture and Tourism.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 92.14 (3) (intro.) and 92.14 (5r); and *to create* 20.115 (7) (f)
2 and 92.14 (3) (am) of the statutes; **relating to:** county conservation staff for
3 climate change resiliency purposes and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, as part of the Soil and Water Resource Management program, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection provides funding to counties for county conservation staffing. Current law specifies the activities that county conservation staff may engage in with funding provided under this program. This bill provides that this program may be used to fund county conservation staff who focus on climate change and climate change resiliency. The bill provides \$1,800,000 in GPR funding for this purpose. Under the bill, a county that seeks funding for this purpose must specifically indicate so in its annual grant request.

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:

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

SENATE BILL 774

SECTION 1

2023-24

2024-25

1 **20.115 Agriculture, trade and consumer**

2 **protection, department of**

3 (7) AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

4 (f) Soil and water management; cli-

5 mate change personnel GPR A -0- 1,800,000

6 **SECTION 2.** 20.115 (7) (f) of the statutes is created to read:

7 20.115 (7) (f) *Soil and water management; climate change personnel.* The
8 amounts in the schedule for support of county land conservation personnel under the
9 soil and water resource management program for the purpose described under s.
10 92.14 (3) (am).

11 **SECTION 3.** 92.14 (3) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 92.14 (3) BASIC ALLOCATIONS TO COUNTIES. (intro.) To help counties fund their
13 land and water conservation activities, the department shall award an annual grant
14 from the appropriation under s. 20.115 (7) (c), (f), (qe), or (qf) or s. 20.866 (2) (we) to
15 any county land conservation committee that has a land and water resource
16 management plan approved by the department under s. 92.10 (4) (d), and that, by
17 county board action, has resolved to provide any matching funds required under sub.
18 (5g). The county may use the grant for land and water resource management
19 planning and for any of the following purposes, consistent with the approved land
20 and water resource management plan:

21 **SECTION 4.** 92.14 (3) (am) of the statutes is created to read:

22 92.14 (3) (am) County land conservation personnel who primarily focus on
23 climate change and climate change resiliency.

