



2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 393

August 28, 2019 - Introduced by Representatives ANDERSON, BOWEN, CABRERA, CROWLEY, EMERSON, HEBL, KOLSTE, MILROY, NEUBAUER, OHNSTAD, SARGENT, SINICKI, SKOWRONSKI, STUCK, C. TAYLOR, ZAMARRIPA and BROSTOFF, cosponsored by Senators LARSON, CARPENTER, HANSEN, RINGHAND, RISSER, SMITH and L. TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on Science and Technology.

- 1 **AN ACT to create** 15.677, 20.235 (1m) and 39.52 of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 spinal cord injury research grants and symposia and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Higher Educational Aids Board to establish a program to award grants to persons in this state for research into spinal cord injuries. The grants must support research into new and innovative treatments and rehabilitative efforts for the functional improvement of people with spinal cord injuries. Research topics may include pharmaceutical, medical device, brain stimulus, and rehabilitative approaches and techniques. HEAB must make annual reports to the legislature about the grants. The bill also allows HEAB to hold symposia every two years for grant recipients to present their research findings. The bill appropriates general purpose revenues not exceeding \$10,000,000 for the grants and symposia.

The bill also requires HEAB to appoint a spinal cord injury council with one member representing the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, one member representing the Medical College of Wisconsin, and the following members: 1) a person with a spinal cord injury; 2) a family member of a person with a spinal cord injury; 3) a veteran with a spinal cord injury; 4) a physician specializing in the treatment of spinal cord injuries; 5) a neurosurgery researcher; and 6) a researcher employed by the veterans health administration of the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. If HEAB is unable to appoint any of the foregoing members, the bill allows HEAB to appoint, in lieu of that member, a member representing the general public. Members of the council have two-year terms. The bill requires the council to develop criteria for HEAB to evaluate and award grants,

ASSEMBLY BILL 393

review and make recommendations on grant applications, and perform other duties specified by HEAB. Council members must make written disclosures of financial interests in organizations that the council recommends for grants.

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.** 15.677 of the statutes is created to read:

2 **15.677 Same; attached council. (1) SPINAL CORD INJURY COUNCIL.** (a) There
3 is created in the higher educational aids board a spinal cord injury council that,
4 except as provided in par. (b), consists of the following members appointed by the
5 board for 2-year terms:

6 1. One member representing the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine
7 and Public Health.

8 2. One member representing the Medical College of Wisconsin.

9 3. One member who has a spinal cord injury.

10 4. One member who is a family member of a person with a spinal cord injury.

11 5. One member who is a veteran who has a spinal cord injury.

12 6. One member who is a physician specializing in the treatment of spinal cord
13 injuries.

14 7. One member who is a researcher in the field of neurosurgery.

15 8. One member who is a researcher employed by the veterans health
16 administration of the federal department of veterans affairs.

17 (b) If the board is unable to appoint a member specified in par. (a) 1. to 8., the
18 board may appoint a member representing the general public in lieu of the member
19 so specified.

ASSEMBLY BILL 393

1 **SECTION 2.** 20.235 (1m) of the statutes is created to read:

2 20.235 **(1m)** RESEARCH SUPPORT. (a) *Spinal cord injury research grants and*
3 *symposia.* A sum sufficient not to exceed \$10,000,000 for grants and symposia under
4 s. 39.52 (2) and (3).

5 (g) *Gifts and grants.* All moneys received from gifts and grants for the program
6 established under s. 39.52 (2) to carry out the purpose for which received.

7 **SECTION 3.** 39.52 of the statutes is created to read:

8 **39.52 Spinal cord injury research grants and symposia. (1) DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this section:

10 (a) “Council” means the spinal cord injury council.

11 (b) “Grant program” means the program established under sub. (2).

12 **(2) GRANT PROGRAM.** The board shall establish a program to award grants to
13 persons in this state for research into spinal cord injuries. The purpose of the grants
14 is to support research into new and innovative treatments and rehabilitative efforts
15 for the functional improvement of people with spinal cord injuries, and research
16 topics may include pharmaceutical, medical device, brain stimulus, and
17 rehabilitative approaches and techniques. Grant recipients shall agree to present
18 their research findings at symposia held by the board under sub. (3).

19 **(3) SYMPOSIA.** The board may hold symposia every 2 years for recipients of
20 grants under the grant program to present findings of research supported by the
21 grants.

22 **(4) GRANT REPORTS.** By January 15 of each year, the board shall submit an
23 annual report to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature under s.
24 13.172 (3) that identifies the recipients of grants under the grant program and the
25 purposes for which the grants were used.

