
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



Prepared by: Benjamin Kranner, Staff Analyst

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2021 Wisconsin Act 11 [2021 Senate Bill 79]

Monitoring Extension and Outreach Hours of UW System State Specialists

EXISTING MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Current law directs the Board of Regents (“the Board”) of the University of Wisconsin (UW) System to develop and implement a plan for each UW System institution to monitor teaching workloads and report teaching hours to the system administration. This plan must include policies for rewarding faculty and instructional academic staff who teach more than a standard academic load. The Board is required to publish data on these teaching hours to an accountability dashboard on the UW System’s website. Additionally, both the Board and the chancellor of UW-Madison must include data on these hours in an annual accountability report to the Governor and the Legislature.

Current law also directs the Board to establish and maintain employment relations policies and practices, as well as a personnel system, for all system employees except those assigned to UW-Madison. The chancellor of UW-Madison is similarly required to establish policies, practices, and a personnel system for UW-Madison. The policies, practices, and systems for UW-Madison and the other UW System institutions are required to be consistent with the plan to monitor teaching workloads and reward faculty and staff for teaching more than the standard load.

REQUIREMENTS UNDER 2021 WISCONSIN ACT 11

2021 Wisconsin Act 11 requires that that Board also develop and implement a plan for monitoring extension and outreach hours for state specialists. Under the act, a state specialist is a faculty or academic staff member who provides extension services in applied agricultural research at UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls, UW-Stevens Point, or the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The act requires data on extension and outreach hours to be included in the aforementioned accountability dashboard and accountability report.

The act directs the Board and the chancellor of UW-Madison to revise personnel systems and employment relations policies and practices for consistency with the Board’s plan to monitor extension and outreach hours. While current law generally requires the Joint Committee on Employment Relations to approve revisions to the personnel systems for UW-Madison and the other UW System institutions, the act waives this requirement for the revisions required under the act.

Effective date: March 28, 2021

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