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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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**2021 Wisconsin Act 67**  
[2021 Senate Bill 84]

**Private On-Site Wastewater  
Treatment System Replacement  
or Rehabilitation Grant Program  
and Septage Characterization  
Study**

### BACKGROUND

The Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) administers a private on-site wastewater treatment system (POWTS) grant program. The program, also referred to as the Wisconsin Fund, partially offsets the cost of replacing or rehabilitating eligible failing POWTS. Under prior law, the grant program was set to expire on June 30, 2021.

### 2021 WISCONSIN ACT 67

2021 Wisconsin Act 67 delays the sunset of the grant program by two years, so that the program will expire on June 30, 2023. The act also requires that DSPS prepare literature that describes grant eligibility for a principal residence and distribute the literature to counties. In turn, counties must then distribute the literature to recipients of public benefits. The act authorizes two additional full-time equivalent positions at DSPS for the purpose of conducting POWTS application and plan review and fulfilling other DSPS responsibilities relating to POWTS regulation and oversight.

Finally, the act requires DSPS to fund a septage characterization study conducted by the Department of Soil and Waste Resources of the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The study must analyze and make recommendations on practices to mitigate the risk of ground and surface water contamination. The department must prepare a report detailing the results of the study and must submit the report to the appropriate standing committees of the Legislature by December 31, 2022.

**Effective date: July 10, 2021**

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