
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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May 10, 2023

2023 Wisconsin Act 5 [2023 Assembly Bill 65]

Eligibility for Producer-Led Watershed, Lake, and River Protection Grants

2023 WISCONSIN ACT 5

2023 Wisconsin Act 5 expands eligibility of producer-led groups for the watershed protection grant program administered by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), and makes producer-led groups eligible for various lake and river protection grant programs administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

DATCP Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant Eligibility

Prior law directed DATCP to provide grants for nonpoint source pollution abatement activities conducted with the assistance of producer-led groups. In order to be eligible for these grants, a producer-led group was required to include at least five agricultural producers, each of whom operated an “eligible farm”¹ in one watershed.

2023 Wisconsin Act 5 expands eligibility for these grants by allowing the five agricultural producers to operate eligible farms in one watershed or in adjacent watersheds.

DNR Lake and River Protection Grant Eligibility

Prior law directed DNR to provide grants for lake management planning, lake monitoring and protection, lake management and classification, and river protection activities.

2023 Wisconsin Act 5 makes producer-led groups conducting producer-led group projects eligible for these DNR grants. The act also provides that if a producer-led group is not a legal entity, the grant must be awarded to a legal entity on behalf of the producer-led group.

Effective date: May 10, 2023

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature’s [bill history page](#).

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¹ “Eligible farm” is defined in s. 91.86 (1), Stats., as “a farm that produced at least \$6,000 in gross farm revenues during the taxable year preceding the year in which a petition is filed requesting [DATCP] to designate an area in which the farm is located as an agricultural enterprise area or a total of at least \$18,000 in gross farm revenues during the 3 taxable years preceding the year in which a petition is filed.”