
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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Contact: Benjamin Kranner, Staff Analyst

2023 Senate Bill 451

Senate Substitute Amendment 1

Under current law, certain counties and municipalities may enact an ordinance or adopt a resolution declaring themselves to be a premier resort area. In turn, a county or municipality located entirely within a premier resort area may impose a 0.5 percent tax on the gross receipts from the sale, lease, or rental of certain goods and services sold by tourism-related retailers. Proceeds from the tax may only be used to pay for infrastructure expenses within the jurisdiction of the premier resort area.

Although current law generally provides for a premier resort area tax of 0.5 percent, a municipality that imposed a premier resort area tax prior to January 1, 2000, may increase its tax to a maximum of 1.25 percent. Only the Village of Lake Delton and the City of Wisconsin Dells qualify for this provision, and both municipalities have increased their premier resort area tax to this maximum.¹

2023 SENATE BILL 451

2023 Senate Bill 451 provides that any municipality that imposed a premier resort area tax prior to January 1, 2000, may amend its ordinance to increase its premier resort area tax rate to a maximum of 1.5 percent. For an amendment to the ordinance to take effect, certain requirements under existing law must be met, including approval of the tax increase through a local referendum.

Under the bill, proceeds from the premier resort area tax in excess of 1.25 percent may only be used to pay for public safety expenses within the jurisdiction of the premier resort area.

SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 omits language in the bill that would allow particular municipalities (i.e., the Village of Lake Delton and the City of Wisconsin Dells) to increase their premier resort area tax. Instead, the substitute amendment provides these municipalities with increased flexibility regarding their use of proceeds from the premier resort area tax. While current law restricts the use of proceeds to infrastructure expenses, the substitute amendment provides that the proceeds may be used to pay for infrastructure expenses and public safety expenses.

BILL HISTORY

On October 12, 2023, the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Tourism recommended passage of the bill on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0. On November 14, 2023, the Senate adopted Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on a voice vote. On the same day, the Senate voted to pass the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 32; Noes, 1.

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

BK:kp;ksm

¹ Further information on premier resort area taxes may be found in [Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Local Government Revenue Options, Informational Paper #18 \(Jan. 2023\)](#).