
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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**September 2023 Special Session
Senate Bill 1**

**Senate Substitute
Amendment 1**

SEPTEMBER 2023 SPECIAL SESSION SENATE BILL 1

September 2023 Special Session Senate Bill 1 makes various changes to state law generally related to child care and the workforce. Below is a very brief description of the main provisions of the bill. For a detailed description of the bill, see the Legislative Fiscal Bureau's summary at the following link:

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/misc/121_summary_of_september_2023_special_session_senate_bill_1_10_9_23.pdf.

Child Care Provisions

- Authorizes the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to establish a program to make **payments to child care programs**, including monthly payments and monthly per-child payments to certified or licensed child care providers and child care programs established or contracted for by a school board.
- Authorizes DCF to establish a **child care partnership grant program** that provides grants to businesses that provide child care services for their employees and provides the required 25 percent matching funds.

Family and Medical Leave Provisions

- Generally, **expands family and medical leave** to cover more relatives, more eligible reasons for leave, and for a longer duration.
- Creates a **family and medical leave benefits insurance program** to provide family or medical leave insurance benefits for covered individuals for up to 12 weeks in a benefit year.
- Requires the Department of Administration to develop a **paid family and medical leave program**.

Higher Education Provisions

- Transfers approximately \$197 million for the **University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison engineering building**.
- Provides additional funding for the UW System.
- Provides additional funding for the Technical College System.
- Increases the appropriation for the **Wisconsin grant program** administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) that provides grants to certain postsecondary resident students.

Health Care Workforce

- Increases HEAB's biennial appropriation for the **nurse educator program** by \$5 million in each year of the 2023-25 fiscal biennium. This program provides fellowships to certain nursing students and faculty, and provides educational loan repayment assistance to nursing faculty.
- Requires the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to establish a program to provide **health care workforce innovation grants** to regional organizations to address the specific region's health care-related workforce challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Requires DWD to establish a program to provide **health care workforce opportunity grants** to local workforce development boards to assist individuals whose employment status was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and whose employment status has not improved.
- Increases the money available to the Department of Health Services (DHS) to award **health care provider innovation grants** to certain community programs to be used for health care workforce recruitment and retention.
- Increases the **funding for the WisCaregiver Careers program** that is administered by DHS and provides free nurse aid training and evaluation and certain retention bonuses.
- Increases the money available to DHS for **treatment program grants** that must be used for supervision, training, and resources to support treatment programs.
- Increases the money available for **graduated medical education grants** that support creating new training programs and support existing programs, and increases the amount DHS may award in each grant.
- Provides funding and position authority to DWD to **develop apprenticeship pathways related to health care** in consultation with stakeholders and partners.

Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Provisions

- Modifies provisions related to **WRS annuitants returning to work**, including the break-in service requirement and the ability for an annuitant to provide employment services without resuming participating in the WRS System and suspending annuity payments.

Education

- Creates an **encourage teaching careers grant** program administered by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) that provides grants to school districts and independent charter school operators for activities that encourage and support teaching careers.
- Requires DPI to provide stipends to individuals participating in DPI's **teacher improvement program**.
- Provides **stipends to student teachers** who are completing certain teacher preparatory programs.
- Provides stipends to teachers overseeing student teachers in the teacher's classroom.
- Provides **stipends to library interns** who are pursuing a degree in library science and are placed as an intern in a public library or school library.

SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 replaces Senate Bill 1 entirely. Below is a very brief description of the substitute amendment. For a detailed description of the substitute amendment, see the Legislative Fiscal Bureau's summary at the following link:

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/misc/122_summary_of_senate_substitute_amendment_1_to_september_2023_special_session_senate_bill_1_10_17_23.pdf.

Individual Income Tax Provisions

- Reduces the marginal **income tax** rate of the third income bracket from 5.3 percent to 4.4 percent.
- Expands the state nonrefundable **child and dependent care tax credit** from 50 percent to 100 percent of the corresponding federal credit.
- Increases the **private school tuition deduction** to account for inflation since 2014 and ties the deduction to inflation increases going forward.

Occupational Licensing Provisions

- Expands the service member-related **reciprocal credential** process to all credential holders of certain occupations who hold a credential in another state and are in good standing.
- Limits the extent of **investigations of conviction records by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS)** by not requiring DPS to review the circumstances of offenses related to driving while impaired, underage alcohol violations, and minor, nonviolent ordinance violations.
- **Prohibits statutes and rules examinations** as a requirement of licensure or certification for certain professions and allows DPS to require an applicant affirm knowledge of relevant statutes and rules.
- Extends **credential renewal periods** from two years to four years for health and business professions and makes various changes related to continuing education requirements for these credentials.
- **Expands preliminary credential** process, which allows an applicant to begin practicing while awaiting a decision on the applicant's permanent credential, to certain business professions and certain other health care occupations.
- Requires DPS, for the health care provider credentials, to determine and publish **reciprocal credential information** related to whether another jurisdiction's credentialing requirements are substantially equivalent to Wisconsin's requirements.
- Ratifies and enters Wisconsin into the following **interstate compacts**: Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, PA Licensure Compact, Social Work Licensure Compact, and the Counseling Compact. Generally, these compacts allow credential holders in one compact state to practice in other compact states.
- Creates a council that conducts a **decennial review of occupational licensure requirements** that considers what credentials or credential requirements may be eliminated without endangering health, safety, or welfare of the public, among other considerations.
- Requires the Department of Administration to prepare timely **reports on proposed legislation requiring occupational and business licenses**.

Child Care Provisions

- Requires the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to request a supplemental appropriation for the **Provider Assistance for Licensing** program from the Joint Committee on Finance. The appropriation may be used to assist unregulated child care providers to become certified or licensed. The assistance may include grant funding, waiver of licensure fees, completing background checks, and aiding in compliance with regulations, training, and certification.

Workforce Development Provisions

- Creates an **apprenticeship grant program for technical and tribal college students** to pay for certain apprentice-related expenses.
- Creates a **commercial driver's license training grant** program that provides grants to certain training entities that provide training to individuals who obtain commercial driver's licenses in this state.

Unemployment Insurance Provisions

- Modifies the **general qualifying requirements** for an unemployment insurance claimant to specifically require direct contacts with potential employers beginning in the third week, require maintaining a current resume on the DWD job center website for certain claimants, and require a reemployment counseling session when there are fewer than three weeks of benefits. The substitute amendment also requires DWD to provide certain reemployment assistance services that are optional under current law.
- Requires DWD to immediately promulgate rules related to **drug testing**, which are required in order for current state law related to unemployment insurance and the presence of controlled substances to take effect.
- Requires DWD to continue participating in the federal reemployment services program, **Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment grants (RESEA)**, and to provide certain RESEA services to all unemployment insurance claimants.
- Requires DWD to perform a weekly **database comparison** of state and national databases that track death records, employment records, and prison records against recipients of unemployment insurance benefits for the purpose of detecting fraud or erroneous payments.

BILL HISTORY

Senator LeMahieu offered Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on October 13, 2023. On October 16, 2023, the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technical Colleges recommended adoption of the amendment, and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 4; Noes, 2.

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

PW:jal