



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRBs0275/1
ARG:cdc&emw

**ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1,
TO ASSEMBLY BILL 540**

February 5, 2024 - Offered by Representative KURTZ.

1 **AN ACT to create** 20.192 (1) (c) and 238.145 of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 University of Wisconsin System branch campus redevelopment grants and
3 making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to award grants of up to \$2,000,000 to political subdivisions of this state for costs associated with the redevelopment of buildings or other sites owned by the political subdivision on a University of Wisconsin System branch campus that are or will no longer be used for academic purposes. A branch campus is any of the former two-year college campuses that were partnered with a four-year UW System campus in the 2018 UW System restructuring. A grant may be awarded only to fund activities that contribute to the overall economic improvement and enhancement of the community, including activities that facilitate job creation, workforce development, small business support, housing, or public infrastructure improvement. To receive a grant, a political subdivision must submit community letters of support for the grant and provide local matching funding in an amount of at least 20 percent of the grant amount. Before making any other grants, WEDC must first award a grant of up to \$2,000,000 to Richland County, then award grants of up to \$2,000,000 to Fond du Lac

1 (b) “Planning costs” include, among other expenses, expenses incurred in
2 connection with hiring consultants, site planning, viability studies, and
3 environmental compliance or remediation activities.

4 (c) “Political subdivision” means a city, village, town, or county.

5 **(2) GRANTS.** (a) From the appropriation under s. 20.192 (1) (c), and subject to
6 pars. (b) to (f), the corporation shall award grants to political subdivisions for costs,
7 including planning costs and demolition costs, associated with the redevelopment of
8 buildings or other sites owned by the political subdivision on a branch campus or
9 former branch campus that are or will no longer be used for academic purposes.

10 (b) A grant may be awarded under this subsection only to fund activities that
11 contribute to the overall economic improvement and enhancement of the community.
12 These activities may include, among others, activities that facilitate job creation,
13 workforce development, small business support, housing, or public infrastructure
14 improvement.

15 (c) The corporation may not award a grant under this subsection unless the
16 political subdivision applying for the grant satisfies all of the following:

17 1. The political subdivision submits to the corporation community letters of
18 support for the grant.

19 2. The political subdivision provides matching funding from local sources in an
20 amount of at least 20 percent of the amount of the grant awarded.

21 (d) No grant awarded under this subsection may exceed \$2,000,000.

22 (e) The corporation shall award a grant under this subsection to Richland
23 County before awarding a grant under this subsection to any other political
24 subdivision. After the grant to Richland County is awarded, the corporation shall
25 award grants to Fond du Lac County, Washington County, and Marinette County

1 before awarding a grant under this subsection to any other political subdivision.
2 This paragraph applies to a county only if the county satisfies all requirements under
3 this subsection for the award of a grant.

4 (f) Upon receiving a political subdivision's application for a grant under this
5 subsection, the corporation shall request under s. 13.101 (3) that the joint committee
6 on finance supplement the appropriation under s. 20.192 (1) (c) by the grant amount
7 if the corporation determines that the requirements under this subsection for
8 awarding the grant are satisfied. The corporation shall submit a separate request
9 to the joint committee on finance for each grant to be awarded. The joint committee
10 on finance may supplement the appropriation under s. 20.192 (1) (c) without finding
11 that an emergency exists under s. 13.101 (3) (a) 1.

12 (3) No later than 90 days after completion of a project for which a grant is
13 awarded under sub. (2), the political subdivision receiving the grant shall submit to
14 the corporation and to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution
15 to the appropriate standing committees under s. 13.172 (3) a report containing all of
16 the following information:

17 (a) The name of the grant recipient and the amount of the grant awarded.

18 (b) A detailed description of how the grant funds were spent.

19 **SECTION 4. Fiscal changes.**

20 (1) In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for the appropriation to the joint
21 committee on finance under s. 20.865 (4) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal year
22 2023-24 is increased by \$20,000,000 to provide funding for grants under s. 238.145.

23 (END)