



State of Wisconsin  
2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1041/P3  
EVM:cjs/wlj/skw

DOA:.....Aslesen, BB0119 - Urban mass transit operating assistance—funding and formula change

**FOR 2025-2027 BUDGET -- NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION**

**AN ACT ...; relating to:** the budget.

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*Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

**TRANSPORTATION**

**HIGHWAYS AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE**

***Mass transit aids***

Under current law, DOT provides state aid payments to local public bodies in urban areas served by mass transit systems to assist the local public bodies with the expenses of operating those systems. There are five classes of mass transit systems, and the total amount of state aid payments to four of these classes is limited to a specific amount in each calendar year. The fifth class consists of certain commuter or light rail systems, and no state aid amounts are specified for this class.

This bill modifies the criteria by which mass transit systems are placed into classes, modifying the threshold operating expenses for each class and updating the census by which population-based class distinctions are determined for two of the classes.

For the four classes of mass transit systems for which state aid amounts are specified, the bill does the following to the total amount limits:

1. For mass transit systems having annual operating expenses of \$100,000,000 or more, the bill maintains the current limit of \$66,787,400 in calendar year 2025 and increases the limit to \$69,458,900 in calendar year 2026 and to \$72,237,300 in calendar year 2027 and thereafter.

2. For mass transit systems having annual operating expenses of more than \$30,000,000 but less than \$100,000,000, the bill maintains the current limit of \$17,549,500 in calendar year 2025 and increases the limit to \$18,251,500 in calendar year 2026 and to \$18,981,600 in calendar year 2027 and thereafter.

3. For mass transit systems serving urban areas having a population of at least 50,000 but having annual operating expenses of no more than \$30,000,000, the bill maintains the current limit of \$25,475,900 in calendar year 2025 and increases the limit to \$26,494,900 in calendar year 2026 and to \$27,554,700 in calendar year 2027 and thereafter.

4. For mass transit systems serving urban areas having a population of less than 50,000, the bill maintains the current limit of \$5,398,600 in calendar year

**BILL**

2025 and increases the limit to \$9,800,600 in calendar year 2026 and to \$10,192,600 in calendar year 2027 and each calendar year thereafter.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

**SECTION 1.** 85.20 (4m) (a) 6. cm. of the statutes is amended to read:

85.20 (**4m**) (a) 6. cm. From the appropriation under s. 20.395 (1) (hd), the department shall pay ~~\$32,738,900 for calendar year 2022, \$65,477,800 for calendar year 2023, and~~ \$66,787,400 for calendar year 2025, \$69,458,900 for calendar year 2026, and \$72,237,300 for calendar year 2027 and each calendar year thereafter; to the eligible applicant that pays the local contribution required under par. (b) 1. for an urban mass transit system that has annual operating expenses of ~~\$80,000,000~~ \$100,000,000 or more. If the eligible applicant that receives aid under this subd. 6. cm. is served by more than one urban mass transit system, the eligible applicant may allocate the aid between the urban mass transit systems in any manner the eligible applicant considers desirable.

**SECTION 2.** 85.20 (4m) (a) 6. d. of the statutes is amended to read:

85.20 (**4m**) (a) 6. d. From the appropriation under s. 20.395 (1) (he), the department shall pay ~~\$8,602,700 for calendar year 2022, \$17,205,400 for calendar year 2023, and~~ \$17,549,500 for calendar year 2025, \$18,251,500 for calendar year 2026, \$18,981,600 for calendar year 2027 and each calendar year thereafter; to the eligible applicant that pays the local contribution required under par. (b) 1. for an urban mass transit system that has annual operating expenses in excess of ~~\$20,000,000~~ \$30,000,000 but less than ~~\$80,000,000~~ \$100,000,000. If the eligible

**BILL****SECTION 2**

applicant that receives aid under this subd. 6. d. is served by more than one urban mass transit system, the eligible applicant may allocate the aid between the urban mass transit systems in any manner the eligible applicant considers desirable.

**SECTION 3.** 85.20 (4m) (a) 7. a. of the statutes is amended to read:

85.20 (**4m**) (a) 7. a. From the appropriation under s. 20.395 (1) (hb), beginning with aid payable for calendar year 2002 and for each calendar year thereafter, the uniform percentage for each eligible applicant served by an urban mass transit system operating within an urbanized area having a population as shown in the ~~2010~~ most recent federal decennial census of at least 50,000 or receiving federal mass transit aid for such area, and not specified in subd. 6.

**SECTION 4.** 85.20 (4m) (a) 7. b. of the statutes is amended to read:

85.20 (**4m**) (a) 7. b. For the purpose of making allocations under subd. 7. a., the amounts for aids are ~~\$24,976,400 in calendar years 2020 to 2023 and~~ \$25,475,900 in calendar year 2025, \$26,494,900 in calendar year 2026, and \$27,554,700 in calendar year 2027 and each calendar year thereafter. These amounts, to the extent practicable, shall be used to determine the uniform percentage in the particular calendar year.

**SECTION 5.** 85.20 (4m) (a) 8. a. of the statutes is amended to read:

85.20 (**4m**) (a) 8. a. From the appropriation under s. 20.395 (1) (hc), beginning with aid payable for calendar year 2002 and for each calendar year thereafter, the uniform percentage for each eligible applicant served by an urban mass transit system operating within an area having a population as shown in the ~~2010~~ most recent federal decennial census of less than 50,000 or receiving federal mass transit aid for such area.

**BILL****SECTION 6**

**SECTION 6.** 85.20 (4m) (a) 8. b. of the statutes is amended to read:

85.20 (**4m**) (a) 8. b. For the purpose of making allocations under subd. 8. a., the amounts for aids are ~~\$5,292,700 in calendar years 2020 to 2023 and \$5,398,600 in calendar year 2025, \$9,800,600 in calendar year 2026, and \$10,192,600 in calendar year 2027 and~~ each calendar year thereafter. These amounts, to the extent practicable, shall be used to determine the uniform percentage in the particular calendar year.

**(END)**