



State of Wisconsin  
2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4806/P3  
ARG:amn&cjs

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION**

1     **AN ACT to amend** 44.02 (5), 44.02 (10) and 44.02 (13), (14), (15), (16), (17) and  
2           (18) of the statutes; **relating to:** duties of the State Historical Society  
3           (suggested as remedial legislation by the State Historical Society).

---

***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill makes minor changes and clarifications related to the duties of the State Historical Society.

Under current law, SHS may charge state residents a fee and must charge nonresidents a fee for admission to its historic sites or buildings, special events, and special exhibits. In addition, SHS may sell postcards, souvenirs, and other merchandise to defray the costs of its operations. This bill specifies that SHS may also sell food and beverages for this purpose.

The bill also specifies that SHS's research center in American history facilitates the further understanding of the significance of the American experience, rather than the American experiment.

Finally, the bill specifies that SHS's directive to preserve the memory of early pioneers and narratives of their exploits, perils, and adventures also applies to early residents.

For further information, see the NOTES provided by the Law Revision Committee of the Joint Legislative Council.

---

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

LAW REVISION COMMITTEE PREFATORY NOTE: This bill is a remedial legislation proposal, requested by the State Historical Society and introduced by the Law Revision Committee under s. 13.83 (1) (c) 4. and 5., stats. After careful consideration of the various provisions of the bill, the Law Revision Committee has determined that this bill makes minor substantive changes in the statutes, and that these changes are desirable as a matter of public policy.

1           **SECTION 1.** 44.02 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           **44.02 (5)** Keep its main library and museum rooms open at all reasonable hours  
3 on business days for the reception of the residents of this state who may wish to visit  
4 the library or museum. Except as provided under subs. (5g) and (5m), the historical  
5 society may collect a fee from residents and shall collect a fee from nonresidents for  
6 admission to historic sites or buildings acquired, leased or operated by the historical  
7 society, including areas within state parks or on other state-owned lands which  
8 incorporate historic buildings, restorations, museums or remains and which are  
9 operated by the historical society by agreement with the department of natural  
10 resources or other departments, or for lectures, pageants or similar special events,  
11 or for admission to defray the costs of special exhibits in its several buildings of  
12 documents, objects or other materials not part of the historical society's regular  
13 collections but brought in on loan from other sources for such special exhibitions or  
14 for use of the main library. The historical society shall take action on a continuing  
15 basis to raise funds from private sources for the operation of its main library. The  
16 historical society may procure and sell or otherwise dispose of food, beverages,  
17 postcards, souvenirs, and other appropriate merchandise to help defray the costs of  
18 operating its several plants and projects.

NOTE: This SECTION modifies the statute to reflect current operations.

19           **SECTION 2.** 44.02 (10) of the statutes is amended to read:

20           **44.02 (10)** Conduct a research center in American history for the benefit of the  
21 students and faculty of the University of Wisconsin System as well as for members

1 of the general public and to facilitate the further understanding by the general public  
2 of the significance of the American ~~experiment~~ experience.

NOTE: This SECTION modernizes terminology regarding one of the duties of the  
State Historical Society.

3 **SECTION 3.** 44.02 (13), (14), (15), (16), (17) and (18) of the statutes are amended  
4 to read:

5 44.02 (13) ~~To faithfully~~ Faithfully expend and apply all money received to the  
6 fulfillment of its duties and purposes as directed by law.

7 (14) ~~To hold~~ Hold all its present and future property for the state.

8 (15) ~~To promote~~ Promote a wider appreciation of the American heritage with  
9 particular emphasis on the collection, advancement, and dissemination of  
10 knowledge of the history of Wisconsin and of the West.

11 (16) ~~To collect~~ Collect, embody, arrange, and preserve in authentic form, a  
12 library of books, pamphlets, maps, charts, manuscripts, papers, paintings, statuary,  
13 and other materials illustrative of the history of the state.

14 (17) ~~To preserve~~ Preserve the memory of its early residents and pioneers, and  
15 ~~to~~ obtain and preserve narratives of their exploits, perils, and adventures.

16 (18) ~~To exhibit~~ Exhibit faithfully the antiquities, and the past and present  
17 condition, and resources of Wisconsin.

NOTE: This SECTION addresses grammatical issues.

18 (END)