



State of Wisconsin  
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0898/1  
MCP:skw

## 2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 1122

March 6, 2024 - Introduced by Representatives NOVAK, TRANEL, SHANKLAND, KITCHENS, C. ANDERSON, BARE, BEHNKE, EMERSON, JACOBSON, JOERS, S. JOHNSON, KRUG, MELOTIK, MURSAU, O'CONNOR, PETRYK and SUBECK, cosponsored by Senator SPREITZER. Referred to Committee on Environment.

\*\*\*AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\*\*

1     **AN ACT** *to create* 20.370 (6) (cs), 281.73 and 281.74 of the statutes; **relating to:**  
2             grants for testing privately owned wells and providing education, providing an  
3             exemption from emergency rule procedures, granting rule-making authority,  
4             and making an appropriation.

---

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

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to create and administer a program to provide two types of grants: 1) grants, not to exceed \$10,000, to any county and to any city, village, or town that contains privately owned wells or water supplies to test and map privately owned wells to assess groundwater quality and determine the extent of any contamination and to study and map geologic characteristics and well construction practices to determine any correlation between water quality, geology, and well construction; and 2) grants, not to exceed \$10,000, to county health departments and county land and water conservation departments to provide education and outreach related to well testing. Applicants may apply for a grant individually or jointly with other applicants and may apply for both types of grants simultaneously. Under the bill, the recipient of a testing and mapping grant must share the results of its testing with DNR and the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education but may not include any personally identifiable information, including specific property locations, with the submitted results.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1122**

The bill also requires cities, villages, and towns that contain privately owned wells or water supplies to inform its residents of the importance of regular well testing.

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

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

1           **SECTION 1.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert  
2 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

		<b>2023-24</b>		<b>2024-25</b>
<b>20.370 Natural resources, department of</b>				
(6) ENVIRONMENTAL AIDS				
(cs) Environmental aids - private				
well testing grant program	SEG    A	-0-		1,000,000

7           **SECTION 2.** 20.370 (6) (cs) of the statutes is created to read:  
8           20.370 (6) (cs) *Environmental aids - private well testing grant program.* From  
9 the environmental fund, the amounts in the schedule to provide grants for testing  
10 privately owned wells under s. 281.73.

11           **SECTION 3.** 281.73 of the statutes is created to read:  
12           **281.73 Private well testing grant program.** (1) The department shall  
13 administer a program to provide the following grants from the appropriation under  
14 s. 20.370 (6) (cs):

15           (a) Grants to any county and to any city, village, or town that contains privately  
16 owned wells or water supplies for the purpose of testing and mapping privately  
17 owned wells to assess groundwater quality and to determine the extent and type of  
18 any contamination and to study and map geologic characteristics and well

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1122**

1 construction practices, including depth to bedrock and well age, to determine any  
2 correlation between water quality, geology, and well construction. A grant provided  
3 under this paragraph may not exceed \$10,000.

4 (b) Grants to county health departments and county land and water  
5 conservation departments for the purpose of providing education and outreach  
6 related to well testing. A grant provided under this paragraph may not exceed  
7 \$10,000.

8 (2) Eligible applicants may apply for the grants under sub. (1) individually or  
9 jointly with any other eligible applicant and may apply for the grants under sub. (1)  
10 (a) and (b) simultaneously.

11 (3) The recipient of a grant under sub. (1) (a) shall submit the results of its  
12 testing and study to the department and the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point  
13 Center for Watershed Science and Education but may not include any personally  
14 identifiable information, including specific property locations, with the submitted  
15 results.

16 (4) The department may promulgate rules to implement this section.

17 **SECTION 4.** 281.74 of the statutes is created to read:

18 **281.74 Well testing importance.** A city, village, or town that contains  
19 privately owned wells or water supplies shall inform its residents of the importance  
20 of regular well testing.

21 **SECTION 5. Nonstatutory provisions.**

22 (1) 2025-27 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST. In submitting information under s. 16.42  
23 for purposes of the 2025-27 biennial budget bill, the department of natural resources  
24 shall include a request to provide \$2,000,000 in funding for fiscal year 2025-26 and

