



2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 916

January 4, 2024 - Introduced by Representatives NEDWESKI, C. ANDERSON, ARMSTRONG, DITTRICH, DUCHOW, GOEBEN, GUNDRUM, KITCHENS, MACCO, MAXEY, MURPHY, PETRYK, RETTINGER, SAPIK and STEFFEN, cosponsored by Senators STROEBEL, BALLWEG, FELZKOWSKI, PFAFF, SMITH and SPREITZER. Referred to Committee on Workforce Development and Economic Opportunities.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- 1 **AN ACT** *to repeal* 20.192 (1) (ar); and *to create* 20.192 (1) (ar) of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** a technology and innovation hub grant to BioForward, Inc., and
3 making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill provides \$7,500,000 in funding for a grant to BioForward, Inc., in its capacity as the lead consortium member of a consortium formed for purposes of Wisconsin's designation by the federal government as a regional technology and innovation hub eligible for a federal regional technology and innovation hub grant. Under the bill, grant moneys may be expended for the following projects, but only to the extent consistent with the purposes of such federal grant and only if the federal grant is actually awarded:

1. The establishment in Wisconsin of a clinical work flow and supply chain support center for image-guided therapies and theranostics.
2. The construction of expanded shared lab space at Forward BIOLABS, Inc., the construction of new Forward BIOLABS, Inc., lab space, and the development of lab-related programming and support for the expansion of Forward BIOLABS, Inc.
3. The development of a program that provides support for manufacturing and supply chain companies in Wisconsin to develop apprenticeship programs and the development of incentives for Wisconsin employers to engage apprentices in high-demand industry sectors.

The bill requires that the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and BioForward, Inc., submit a joint report to the Joint Committee on Finance, annually for three years, that details all uses of the grant moneys.

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1 member of the consortium formed for purposes of this state's federal designation as
2 a regional technology and innovation hub. The grant awarded under this subsection
3 is not subject to s. 238.03 (3) (a).

4 (b) To the extent consistent with the purposes of a federal grant awarded under
5 15 USC 3722a (f), BioForward, Inc., shall expend all grant moneys for the following
6 projects:

7 1. The establishment in this state of a clinical work flow and supply chain
8 support center for image-guided therapies and theranostics.

9 2. The construction of expanded shared lab space at Forward BIOLABS, Inc.,
10 the construction of new Forward BIOLABS, Inc., lab space, and the development of
11 lab-related programming and support for the expansion of Forward BIOLABS, Inc.

12 3. The development of a program that provides support for manufacturing and
13 supply chain companies in this state to develop apprenticeship programs and the
14 development of incentives for employers in this state to engage apprentices in
15 high-demand industry sectors.

16 (2) REPORTS. Annually, for 3 years beginning with the first year after the grant
17 is awarded under sub. (1), the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and
18 BioForward, Inc., shall submit a joint report to the joint committee on finance
19 detailing all uses of the grant moneys.

SECTION 5. Fiscal changes.

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21 (1) In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for the appropriation to the joint
22 committee on finance under s. 20.865 (4) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal year
23 2023-24 is increased by \$7,500,000 for the grant to BioForward, Inc., under SECTION
24 4 (1) of this act. No moneys may be released under this subsection unless the

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SECTION 5

1 consortium specified in SECTION 4 (1) of this act is awarded a federal grant under 15
2 USC 3722a (f).

3 **SECTION 6. Effective dates.** This act takes effect on the day after publication,
4 except as follows:

5 (1) The repeal of s. 20.192 (1) (ar) takes effect on July 1, 2025.

6 (END)