



State of Wisconsin  
2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5733/1  
EAW:amn

## 2021 SENATE BILL 879

January 21, 2022 - Introduced by Senators SMITH, AGARD, BEWLEY, DARLING, MARKLEIN and PFAFF, cosponsored by Representatives EMERSON, ANDERSON, CONLEY, CONSIDINE, DRAKE, HAYWOOD, HEBL, HESSELBEIN, HONG, MILROY, MURSAU, OHNSTAD, S. RODRIGUEZ, SHANKLAND, SINICKI, SPREITZER, STUBBS, SUMMERFIELD and VRUWINK. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Children and Families.

1 **AN ACT to create** 20.437 (1) (dm) and 48.483 of the statutes; **relating to:**  
2 scholarships for sibling connections and making an appropriation.

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

This bill requires the Department of Children and Families to provide scholarships to adopted children and their biological siblings who do not reside in the same household to attend programs together in order to build sibling connections.

The bill also provides additional funding for the University of Wisconsin and for special education aid the Department of Public Instruction pays to school districts, independent charter schools, cooperative educational service agencies, and county children with disabilities education boards, for purposes of maintaining compliance with maintenance of effort requirements of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act and the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

For further information see the state 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:***

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

**SENATE BILL 879**

**SECTION 1**

**2021-22**

**2022-23**

1 **20.437 Children and families, department of**

2 (1) CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

3 (dm) Sibling connections scholarships GPR A 75,000 75,000

4 **SECTION 2.** 20.437 (1) (dm) of the statutes is created to read:

5 20.437 (1) (dm) *Sibling connections scholarships*. The amounts in the schedule  
6 for the scholarship program under s. 48.483.

7 **SECTION 3.** 48.483 of the statutes is created to read:

8 **48.483 Sibling connections scholarships.** From the appropriation under  
9 s. 20.437 (1) (dm), the department shall award scholarships to adopted children and  
10 their biological siblings who do not reside in the same household to attend programs  
11 together in order to build sibling connections.

12 **SECTION 4. Fiscal changes.**

13 (1) UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM; GENERAL PROGRAM OPERATIONS. In the  
14 schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for the appropriation to the Board of Regents of the  
15 University of Wisconsin System under s. 20.285 (1) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal  
16 year 2021-22 is increased by \$10,000 to increase funding for the purpose for which  
17 the appropriation is made and the dollar amount for fiscal year 2022-23 is increased  
18 by \$10,000 to increase funding for the purpose for which the appropriation is made.

19 (2) SPECIAL EDUCATION AID. In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for the  
20 appropriation to the department of public instruction under s. 20.255 (2) (b), the  
21 dollar amount for fiscal year 2021-22 is increased by \$45,000 to increase funding for  
22 aids for special education under s. 115.88 and the dollar amount for fiscal year

