

To: Legislative Colleagues
From: Representatives Jim Steineke, Beth Meyers and John Nygren
Senators Jerry Petrowski and Janet Bewley
Date: May 15, 2019

Re: Co-Sponsorship of LRB-1750/1: Flood risk reduction pilot project and making an appropriation.

Deadline: 12:00 PM on Wednesday, May 22, 2019

With heavy rainfall during the summer of 2018, many communities around the state experienced extensive damage amid historic floods. One of the areas hit hardest was in far northern Wisconsin – where roads, culverts and bridges were damaged, or even washed away, by the rising floodwaters.

While not all of this damage – and it’s estimated \$88 million in damages – could have been avoided, improved stream and wetland conditions in the area could have played an important role in minimizing the impact. According to a 2018 study completed in Ashland County, there are a number of shovel-ready projects that could help to increase the natural flood storage capacity within the Marengo River Watershed – an area that is prone to flooding.

The natural infrastructure restoration practices are well-established in other states, but generally underutilized in Wisconsin. Demonstration projects of this sort are needed to show Wisconsin road crews, emergency service managers and resource professionals how and where they can increase natural flood storage capacity to protect vulnerable public infrastructure.

LRB-1750 would provide funds needed to support the design, implementation and evaluation of two to three demonstration projects to test natural flood reduction practices in Ashland County. The results of these projects would then be summarized and provided to the Legislature and to the Division of Emergency Management within the Dept. of Military Affairs to be used as templates and case studies as to how projects of these sorts can be further used around the state.

For further information, please see the Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau below.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, **please respond by email or contact Representative Steineke’s office at 266-2401 by 12:00 PM on Wednesday, May 22, 2019.** All co-sponsors will be added to both Senate and Assembly companion bills unless otherwise requested.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill appropriates \$150,000 of general purpose revenue and requires the Department of Natural Resources to allocate that money in the 2019-21 fiscal biennium to Ashland County to design, implement, and evaluate not more than three demonstration projects that test natural flood risk reduction practices in that county.

The bill provides that allocated money may be used for engineering and design, materials, construction, pre-construction and post-construction monitoring, and project management. Under the bill, DNR must require Ashland County to submit a report no later than June 30, 2021 summarizing the results of its demonstration projects, and DNR must submit to the legislature and to the Division of Emergency Management in the Department of Military Affairs a report summarizing the results of the demonstration projects and recommendations for how existing state policies or funding streams could be adapted to create incentives to protect and restore natural infrastructure and reduce floods.



State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1750/1
EHS:cdc

2019 BILL

- 1 **AN ACT** *to repeal* 20.370 (4) (ad); and *to create* 20.370 (4) (ad) of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** a flood risk reduction pilot project and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill appropriates \$150,000 of general purpose revenue and requires the Department of Natural Resources to allocate that money in the 2019-21 fiscal biennium to Ashland County to design, implement, and evaluate not more than three demonstration projects that test natural flood risk reduction practices in that county. The bill provides that allocated money may be used for engineering and design, materials, construction, pre-construction and post-construction monitoring, and project management. Under the bill, DNR must require Ashland County to submit a report no later than June 30, 2021 summarizing the results of its demonstration projects, and DNR must submit to the legislature and to the Division of Emergency Management in the Department of Military Affairs a report summarizing the results of the demonstration projects and recommendations for how existing state policies or funding streams could be adapted to create incentives to protect and restore natural infrastructure and reduce floods.

For further information see the *state* 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:

BILL**SECTION 1**

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

2019-20 2020-21

3 **20.370 Natural resources, Department of**

4 (4) ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

5 (ad) Flood risk reduction pilot project GPR B 75,000 75,000

6 **SECTION 2.** 20.370 (4) (ad) of the statutes is created to read:

7 20.370 (4) (ad) *Flood risk reduction pilot project.* Biennially, from the general
8 fund, the amounts in the schedule for the pilot project under 2019 Wisconsin Act ...
9 (this act), section (4) (1).

10 **SECTION 3.** 20.370 (4) (ad) of the statutes, as created by 2019 Wisconsin Act ...
11 (this act), is repealed.

12 **SECTION 4. Nonstatutory provisions.**

13 (1) FLOOD RISK REDUCTION PILOT PROJECT. In the 2019-21 fiscal biennium, the
14 department of natural resources shall allocate \$150,000 to Ashland County to
15 design, implement, and evaluate not more than three demonstration projects that
16 test natural flood risk reduction practices in that county. Project expenditures for
17 the moneys allocated may be used include engineering and design, materials,
18 construction, pre-construction and post-construction monitoring, and project
19 management. The department shall require Ashland County to submit to the
20 department a report summarizing the results of its demonstration projects no later
21 than June 30, 2021. The department shall submit to the legislature, in the manner
22 provided under section 13.172 (2), and to the division of emergency management in
23 the department of military affairs a report summarizing the results of the

BILL

1 demonstration projects and recommendations for how existing state policies or
2 funding streams could be adapted to create incentives to protect and restore natural
3 infrastructure and reduce floods.

4 **SECTION 5. Effective dates.** This act takes effect on the day after publication,
5 or on the 2nd day after publication of the 2019 biennial budget act, whichever is later,
6 except as follows:

7 (1) The treatment of s. 20.370 (4) (ad) (by SECTION 3) takes effect on July 1, 2021.

8 (END)