



## WEDA 2018-17 Legislative Bill Tracker

- **Bill Number:** [Aug. 2017 Special Session SB 1](#) / [Special Session AB 1](#)
- **Bill Description:** Creates a new Electronics and Information Technology Manufacturing Zone and provides a number of economic incentives for Foxconn Technology Group to locate in Wisconsin, including nearly \$3 billion in refundable tax credits and a wide array of regulatory exemptions.
- **Bill Status:** Special Session Assembly Bill 1 passed both the Senate and the Assembly and was signed into law as 2017 Wisconsin Act 58 on 09/19/2017.  
**WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
  
- **Bill Number:** [SB 1](#) / [AB 1](#)
- **Bill Description:** Increases, from 12% to 15%, the allowable ratio of Tax Incremental District (TID) value increments to total equalized value of taxable property in the village of Oostburg.
- **Bill Status:** Senate Bill 1 passed both the Senate and the Assembly and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 1 on 02/16/17.
- **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
  
- **Bill Number:** [SB 49](#) / [AB 123](#)
- **Bill Description:** Provides \$23 million in new funding for Wisconsin broadband expansion programs, including the Public Service Commission's Broadband Expansion Grant Program and the Technology for Educational Achievement (TEACH) Program. The bill also establishes new priority criteria for grant awards under the Broadband Expansion Grant Program.
- **Bill Status:** Senate Bill 49 was passed by the full Senate on 04/04/17. Assembly Bill 123 was approved by the full Assembly on 05/02/17. NOTE: The provisions of the legislation were included in the 2017-19 state budget bill (AB 64 / SB 30) by the Joint Finance Committee. The budget bill was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 59 on 09/21/17.
- **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
  
- **Bill Number:** [SB 51](#) / [AB 81](#)
- **Bill Description:** Makes numerous technical changes to Wisconsin TIF law.
- **Bill Status:** Senate Bill 51 was passed both the Senate and the Assembly and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 15 on 06/22/17.
- **WEDA Position:** **MONITOR**

- **Bill Number:** [SB 75](#) / [AB 108](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Creates a non-refundable corporate income and franchise tax credit for contributions made by an employer to an employee's college savings account.
  - **Bill Status:** Senate Bill 75 was passed both the Senate and the Assembly and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 197 on 04/03/18.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 127](#) / [AB 192](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Eliminates the current funding cap on Wisconsin's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Incentive Grant program to ensure school districts receive full grant awards. The CTE grant program provides financial support to school districts that provide educational opportunities for student to earn industry recognized certifications in high-demand professions.
  - **Bill Status:** Failed to pass in the 2017-18 legislative session.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 173](#) / [AB 179](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Makes numerous modifications to current law regulating brownfield revitalization.
  - **Bill Status:** Senate Bill 173 was passed by both the Assembly and Senate and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 70 on 11/27/17.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 184](#) / [AB 266](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Makes several changes to the eligibility requirements for the Technical Excellence Higher Education Scholarship Program.
  - **Bill Status:** Assembly Bill 266 was passed by both the Assembly and Senate and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 91 on 11/30/17.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 218](#) / [AB 277](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Eliminates the personal property tax as of January 1, 2018. The bill would also require the state to reimburse municipalities for the loss of personal property tax revenue based on personal property on the tax rolls as of 2017.
  - **Bill Status:** Senate Bill 218 was referred to the Senate Revenue, Financial Institutions and Rural Issue Committee and received a public hearing on 05/24/17. Assembly Bill 277 was referred to the Assembly Government Ways and Means Committee and received a public hearing on 06/01/17. NOTE: Portions of the legislation were included in the 2017-19 state budget bill (2017 WI Act 59).
  - **WEDA Position:** **MONITOR**

- **Bill Number:** [SB 284](#) / [AB 393](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Creates a grant program administered by the Wisconsin Arts Board to provide grant funding to businesses and other organizations to grow creative industries in Wisconsin.
  - **Bill Status:** Failed to pass in the 2017-18 legislative session.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 291](#) / [AB 387](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Clarifies that lease amounts must be factored into the valuation of leased properties for property tax purposes.
  - **Bill Status:** Failed to pass in the 2017-18 legislative session.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 292](#) / [AB 386](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Requires assessors to consider certain factors when comparing properties to determine the value of a property for tax purposes. The bill also provides that an assessor cannot use a vacant store as a comparable when assessing the value of the property of an active store.
  - **Bill Status:** Failed to pass in the 2017-18 legislative session.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 320](#) / [AB 388](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Creates an exemption from wetland permitting requirements for artificial wetlands.
  - **Bill Status:** Failed to pass in the 2017-18 legislative session.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 336](#) / [AB 420](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Streamlines annual financial review and reporting requirements for certain Business Improvement District (BIDs).
  - **Bill Status:** Assembly Bill 420 was passed by both the Assembly and the Senate and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 189 on 04/03/18.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 398](#) / [AB 489](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Increases the limit on investments eligible for the Angel and Early Stage Seed Tax Credit program from \$8 million to \$12 million for each qualifying business.
  - **Bill Status:** Assembly Bill 489 was passed by both the Assembly and Senate and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 234 on 04/03/18.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**

- **Bill Number:** [SB 404](#) / [AB 498](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Creates an exemption to the \$130 LLC filing fee for college students who establish a start-up business.
  - **Bill Status:** Senate Bill 404 was passed by both the Senate and Assembly and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 177 on 03/28/18.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 406](#) / [AB 497](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Provides that a wetland individual permit issued to a public utility may not require mitigation unless the discharge authorized by the permit impacts more than 10,000 square feet of wetland.
  - **Bill Status:** Assembly 497 was passed by both the Assembly and Senate and was signed into law as WI 2017 Act 118 on 11/30/17.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 411](#) / [AB 508](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Modifies current law regarding apprenticeships to prohibit apprentice to journeyman ratios from requiring more than one journeyman for each apprentice. It would also authorize the Department of Workforce Development to set the length of carpentry and plumbing apprenticeship programs.
  - **Bill Status:** Assembly Bill 508 was passed by both the Assembly and Senate and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 148 on 03/28/18.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 505](#) / [AB 600](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Authorizes the Town of Cable, WI (Bayfield County) to create a TID in the same manner as a city or village, despite not meeting current law valuation and population requirements.
  - **Bill Status:** Assembly Bill 600 was passed by both the Assembly and Senate and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 292 on 04/16/18.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 525](#) / [AB 640](#)
  - **Bill Description:** The bill creates the Innovation Fund – funded by a payroll tax “TIF” – to provide grants for economic development programs aimed at Innovation and the development of new technologies; new product research and development; small business accelerators; and strengthening industry cluster partnerships.
  - **Bill Status:** Failed to pass in the 2017-18 legislative session.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**

- **Bill Number:** [SB 534](#) / [AB 641](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Codifies Wisconsin's commercial building and plumbing review practices in state statute. They currently reside under the Wisconsin Administrative Code.
  - **Bill Status:** Assembly Bill 641 was passed by both the Assembly and Senate and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 198 on 04/03/18.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 579](#) / [AB 659](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Requires that if the Wisconsin Department of Revenue recertifies the base value of a TIF district due to the district's subtraction of territory, the municipality where the TIF district is located may increase its levy limit by an amount equal to 50% of the subtracted territory's value increment.
  - **Bill Status:** Assembly Bill 659 was passed by both the Senate and the Assembly and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 223 on 04/03/18.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 583](#) / [AB 692](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Makes numerous technical statutory changes to better align state securities law with federal securities rules. In addition, the bill authorizes brokers to advertise crowdfunding securities sold through a state approved Internet site.
  - **Bill Status:** Senate Bill 583 was passed by both the Senate and the Assembly and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 213 on 04/03/18.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 600](#) / [AB 547](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Exempts nonfederal and artificial wetlands from certain Department of Natural Resources wetland permitting requirements.
  - **Bill Status:** Assembly Bill 547 was passed by both the Assembly and Senate and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 183 on 03/28/18.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 613](#) / [AB 729](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Creates an exemption to state revenue limits, allowing school districts, under certain circumstances, to exceed limits for expenditures related to capital improvements for vocational education, including the purchase of work stations, machinery, and other equipment to support technical education.
  - **Bill Status:** Failed to pass in the 2017-18 legislative session.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**

- **Bill Number:** [SB 620](#) / [AB 734](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Creates an income tax deduction for tuition expenses paid by an individual, or paid by a corporation on behalf of an individual, for an apprenticeship program approved by the WI Department of Workforce Development. Under the bill, the amount of the deduction is equal to tuition expenses incurred by or on behalf of an individual.
  - **Bill Status:** Failed to pass in the 2017-18 legislative session.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 628](#) / [AB 745](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Authorizes high school students to enter a full apprenticeship program in a student's senior year, if all the following apply: The student is on track to graduate high school; 2.) The student has time to complete other school requirements; and 3.) The student is awarded high school credit for the apprenticeship.
  - **Bill Status:** Assembly Bill 745 was passed by both the Senate and the Assembly and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 273 on 04/12/18.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 645](#) / [AB 773](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Makes numerous changes to Wisconsin's civil law procedures to streamline the process and reduce litigation costs for Wisconsin businesses and state and local governments.
  - **Bill Status:** Assembly Bill 773 was passed by both the Senate and the Assembly and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 235 on 04/03/18.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 668](#) / [AB 793](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Increases the per project cap on state historic tax credit awards from \$500,000 to \$3.5 million.
  - **Bill Status:** Senate Bill 668 was passed by both the Senate and the Assembly and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 280 on 04/16/18.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 671](#) / [AB 758](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Eliminates current law barriers the UW System faces when entrepreneurs and faculty attempt to create businesses with patents and spin-off opportunities produced by the university's research. The bill modifies the UW System's conflict of interest regulation, putting the System on an even playing field with other universities across the country.
  - **Bill Status:** Failed to pass in the 2017-18 legislative session.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**

- **Bill Number:** [SB 679](#) / [AB 811](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Provides \$6.8 million for WEDC's Think-Make-Happen marketing platform, which is designed to retain and attract top talent to Wisconsin. The funding will be used to expand the platform's reach and focus on key populations that are more likely to relocate to Wisconsin.
  - **Bill Status:** Assembly Bill 811 was passed by both the Senate and the Assembly and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 318 on 04/16/18.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 713](#) / [AB 857](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Eliminates the State Trust Fund Loan program administered by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. State Trust Fund loans provide financing for public purpose projects, including economic development and local infrastructure projects.
  - **Bill Status:** Failed to pass in the 2017-18 legislative session.
  - **WEDA Position:** **OPPOSE**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 732](#) / [AB 888](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Provides financial incentives to out-of-state students that attend Wisconsin public universities and colleges if they stay and work in Wisconsin after graduation. Eligible individuals would receive 50% of the difference between in-state tuition and what they paid in out-of-state tuition.
  - **Bill Status:** Failed to pass in the 2017-18 legislative session.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 756](#) / [AB 917](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Allows local governments to apply for state certification as a Telecommuter Forward! community. Certain requirements must be met that illustrates the local government's commitment to promote the availability of broadband access and telecommuting options.
  - **Bill Status:** Assembly Bill 917 was passed by both the Senate and the Assembly and was signed into law as 2017 WI Act 342 on 04/16/18.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**
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- **Bill Number:** [SB 769](#) / [AB 912](#)
  - **Bill Description:** Creates the Rural Economic Development Fund that would provide \$1 billion over the next 20 years for programs that advance economic growth in Wisconsin's rural communities.
  - **Bill Status:** Failed to pass in the 2017-18 legislative session.
  - **WEDA Position:** **SUPPORT**