



State of Wisconsin
2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5328/1
MDE:cdc

2025 BILL

- 1 **AN ACT** *to create* 20.192 (1) (br) and 238.129 of the statutes; **relating to:** main
2 street bounceback grants and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill appropriates \$25,000,000 in general purpose revenue in each year of the 2025-27 fiscal biennium for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to award grants to provide assistance to businesses opening a new location or expanding operations in a vacant commercial space. WEDC already administered such a program, which was nonstatutory, with federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Under the bill, WEDC must establish eligibility requirements and other policies and procedures for grants awarded under the bill that are substantially similar to the eligibility requirements and policies and procedures in effect on June 30, 2023, for the Wisconsin Tomorrow Main Street Bounceback Grant program administered by WEDC. Additionally, WEDC may not award a grant under the bill to a nonprofit organization.

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**

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

	2025-26	2026-27
20.192 Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation		

(1) PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(br)	Main street bounceback grants	GPR	A	25,000,000	25,000,000
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SECTION 2. 20.192 (1) (br) of the statutes is created to read:

20.192 (1) (br) *Main street bounceback grants*. The amounts in the schedule
for grants awarded under s. 238.129.

SECTION 3. 238.129 of the statutes is created to read:

238.129 Main street bounceback grants. (1) GRANTS. From the
appropriation under s. 20.192 (1) (br), the corporation may award grants to provide
assistance to businesses opening a new location or expanding operations in a vacant
commercial space.

(2) ELIGIBILITY. (a) Subject to par. (b), the corporation shall establish
eligibility requirements and other policies and procedures for the grants awarded
under sub. (1) that are substantially similar to the eligibility requirements and
policies and procedures in effect on June 30, 2023, for the Wisconsin Tomorrow
Main Street Bounceback Grant program administered by the corporation.

(b) The corporation may not award a grant under this section to a nonprofit
organization.

(END)