

2017-18 WEDA Legislative Priorities Scorecard

WEDA Priority Issue / Legislation	Description	Status
Effective Economic Development Tools		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WEDC Capital Lending Program WEDA Position: Support 	Reestablished WEDC's capital lending program (<i>Business Development Loan Program</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed as part of 2017-19 state budget bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WEDC Base Funding WEDA Position: Support 	Restored \$6.3 million in base funding for WEDC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed as part of 2017-19 state budget bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic Tax Credit Bill (SB 668) WEDA Position: Support 	Raised the per project cap on HTC awards from \$500,000 to \$3.5 million.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed both houses of Legislature Signed into law by Governor as 2017 WI Act 280
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Economic Development Fund Bill (AB 912) WEDA Position: Support 	Would provide \$50 million per year for 20 years for rural economic development programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed by the Assembly Failed to pass the Senate; will not become state law
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TIF Subtraction Bill (AB 659) WEDA Position: Support 	Allows municipalities that subtract territory form a TID to increase their levy limit by an amount equal to 50% of the subtracted land's value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed both houses of Legislature Signed into law by Governor as 2017 WI Act 223
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TIF Reform Legislation WEDA Position: Support 	A series of four proposals recommended by the 2014 TIF reform study committee to modernize state TIF law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failed to pass this session; will not become state law
Advance Workforce Development		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WEDA Talent Attraction Legislation (AB 888) WEDA Position: Support 	Would provide financial incentives to non-resident students who attend Wisconsin universities and colleges if they remain in the state after graduation to live and work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failed to pass this session; will not become state law
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> THINK-MAKE-HAPPEN Funding Bill (AB 811) WEDA Position: Support 	Would provide \$6.8 million to expand WEDC's Think-Make-Happen talent attraction platform.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed both houses of Legislature Signed into law by Governor as 2017 WI Act 318
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast Forward Program Reform WEDA Position: Support 	DWD has proposed updating the Fast Forward program's administrative rules, which could potentially reduce red tape, implement efficiencies, and make the program more business friendly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DWD has issued a scope statement to update the rules.
Competitive Business Climate		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland Regulatory Reform Bill (AB 547) WEDA Position: Support 	Makes numerous changes to current law to streamline DNR regulation of artificial and non-federal wetlands in Wisconsin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed both houses of Legislature Signed into law by Governor as 2017 WI Act 183
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dark Store Legislation (SB 292) WEDA Position: Support 	Would close the dark store property tax loophole in Wisconsin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failed to pass this session; will not become state law
Robust Infrastructure		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Broadband Funding WEDA Position: Support 	Provides \$35.5 million in new funding for rural broadband expansion, including \$13 million for the Rural Broadband Expansion Grant program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed as part of 2017-19 state budget bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Trust Fund Loan Bill (AB 857) WEDA Position: Oppose 	Would eliminate the State Trust Fund Loan program that provides critical financing for infrastructure and economic development projects across the state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failed to pass this session; will not become state law