

# Rep. Loudenbeck: Bill to help restock volunteer fire/EMS talent pipeline signed into law

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Rep. Amy Loudenbeck  
Rep.Loudenbeck@legis.wi.gov  
(608) 266-9967

## *Program Will Offer Incentives for Fire/EMS Training*

Madison – Yesterday, Assembly Bill 872 authored State Representative Amy Loudenbeck (R-Clinton) and co-authored by State Senator Luther Olsen (R-Ripon) at the request of Governor Scott Walker was signed into law as 2017 Wisconsin Act 336 (Act 336).

Act 336 will expand the existing Career and Technical Education (CTE) Incentive Grant to include a specialized Public Safety Certification Incentive Grant program for high school students.

In October of 2017, Governor Walker launched his Rural Agenda focusing on comprehensively addressing the concerns of rural communities, including an initiative to reward high schools and students for successful completion of EMT or Firefighter training.

“Rural Fire and EMS Departments in Wisconsin and other states have struggled in recent years with volunteer shortages,” said Loudenbeck. “Act 336 will help restock the volunteer fire and EMS worker pipelines by rewarding high school students who earn certain public safety credentials.”

Act 336 creates a new Public Safety Certification Incentive Grant Completion Award

which provides a \$500 student award payment upon successful completion of Firefighter I, Firefighter II or EMT Basic. In addition, school districts would receive up to \$1,000 when these students graduate, consistent with the existing Career and Technical Education Incentive Grant program.

“The \$500 award payment to the student will not only incentivize participation, but also help offset out-of-pocket costs for books, exam fees, clothing and travel associated with the course,” said Loudenbeck.

“Emergency responders in Wisconsin hold a vital role in our communities, and with this legislation our rural communities will be in even better hands. For young folks who want to become EMTs or firefighters, this legislation will help provide financial assistance to pay for training which ultimately will help grow Wisconsin’s talent pipeline for emergency responders. This will make our rural communities even safer. I’d like to thank Representative Loudenbeck and Senator Olsen for their leadership in working on this issue,” said Governor Walker.

For more information about Act 336 click [here](#) or follow the link below:

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/proposals/reg/asm/bill/ab872>