



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

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Office of Federal-State Relations in Washington, D. C. (DOA -- General Agency Provisions; DHFS; DOT and DWD)

CURRENT LAW

Under provisions of s. 16.548 of the statutes, the Department of Administration (DOA) may maintain an Office of Federal-State Relations in Washington, D.C., for the purpose of promoting federal-state cooperation. The Governor may appoint an unclassified Director and staff assistant for the Office, subject to the concurrence of the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization. The DOA staff for the Office serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The Departments of Health and Family Services (DHFS), Transportation (DOT), and Workforce Development (DWD) also maintain classified staff at the Office.

If DOA maintains an Office of Federal-State Relations in Washington, D.C., the Office is required to report to the Legislature on a quarterly basis detailing the activities of the Office during the preceding three months and indicating the status of federal legislation of concern to the Legislature and other state agencies.

GOVERNOR

Continue base level funding and staffing at the Washington, D.C., Office of Federal-State Relations in the 2001-03 biennium.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Currently, the Washington, D.C., Office of Federal-State Relations is staffed by 6.0 FTE positions from four different state agencies. DOA has 2.0 GPR unclassified staff (the Office

Director and a staff assistant) assigned to the Office and provides the principal supplies and services support for its operation. DHFS maintains 1.0 GPR position (office management specialist) and 1.0 FED position (administrative manager) at the Office, DOT maintains 1.0 SEG position (policy initiatives advisor) at the Office, and DWD maintains 1.0 PR project position (program and planning analyst 6) at the Office.

2. The total annual budgeted costs of the Office are as follows:

	<u>GPR</u>	<u>FED</u>	<u>PR</u>	<u>SEG</u>	<u>Total</u>
Administration					
Salaries/Fringe Benefits	\$173,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$173,400
Supplies and Services	<u>93,900</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>93,900</u>
Subtotal	\$267,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$267,300
Health and Family Services					
Salaries/Fringe Benefits	\$120,100	\$42,500	\$0	\$0	\$162,600
Supplies and Services	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,400</u>
Subtotal	\$121,300	\$43,700	\$0	\$0	\$165,000
Transportation					
Salaries/Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$99,000	\$99,000
Supplies and Services	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>
Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,200	\$100,200
Workforce Development					
Salaries/Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$54,600	\$0	\$54,600
Supplies and Services	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,200</u>
Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$55,800	\$0	\$55,800
TOTAL	\$388,600	\$43,700	\$55,800	\$100,200	\$588,300

3. The two DOA staff in the Office review and monitor federal legislation and regulatory proposals and actions and provide information on these matters to state agencies, the Governor and the Legislature. As required by law, the Office did provide eight quarterly reports of its activities to the 1999 Legislature. In addition, the Office serves as on-site staff for the Governor when he is in Washington, and may represent the Governor on various national organizations and committees convened in Washington. The Office also responds to constituent letters, assists other state officials when they are in Washington, provides information to the state's Congressional delegation and assists with testimony of state officials at hearings and meetings in Washington.

4. DHFS, DWD and DOT staff perform functions similar to the DOA staff, except that their responsibilities are limited to specific issues that affect programs administered by their respective agencies. These activities may include: informing federal officials of the state agency's policy and program concerns; working on federal legislation that may affect specific agency

programs; seeking to maximize federal funding received by the state; and attempting to ensure that maximum possible flexibility is accorded to the state in implementing a specific agency program supported with federal funds.

5. In recent years, the trend has been for more and more agency staff to be permanently assigned to the Washington, D. C., Office of Federal-State Relations. DHFS has had a separate staff position assigned to the Washington Office since at least 1990; however, in the last four or five years, it has added an additional position. In addition, DOT and DWD have both newly assigned staff to the Washington Office during the last four years.

6. DOT indicates that the transportation position is expected to work on issues related to the reauthorization of federal transportation aid programs, with the goal of increasing the amount of federal aid that the state receives. It is expected that, during the next two years, Congress will craft legislation to replace the current surface transportation program act (the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century or TEA-21), which expires on September 30, 2003.

7. Providing information on federal legislative proposals and making opportunities available to influence the development of federal legislation are services currently also made available to Wisconsin officials through a variety of number of other sources, in addition to the Washington, D.C., Office of Federal-State Relations. For example:

- The Wisconsin Congressional delegation of eleven members has approximately 135 staff members in Washington. Each office has staff members who provide information to state agencies and legislators on federal legislation and can help represent the state's interests in Congress.

- The Office of the Governor and the Legislature are members of national organizations such as the National Governors' Association and the National Conference of State Legislatures. These organizations also maintain offices and staffs in Washington, D.C., to provide federal fiscal and policy information to their members, monitor the development of federal legislation and track federal regulatory actions.

- DOA's Division of Housing and Intergovernmental Relations maintains a staff of 5.35 FTE positions in Madison to provide liaison services and assistance to state agencies, the Governor and the Legislature on questions pertaining to federal aid programs and the federal budget.

- Discretionary travel funding in state agency budgets often allows state senior officials and program staffs to travel to Washington D.C., for direct face-to-face input with their federal counterparts on federal funding issues and federal law changes that may affect their agencies.

- A variety of technological innovations such as teleconferencing and interactive Internet capabilities can allow state officials to access federal officials without the need to travel to Washington or to utilize the services of the Washington, D.C., Office of Federal-State Relations.

8. The question could be raised whether a separate Washington, D.C., Office of Federal-State Relations is necessary, given the number and variety of alternative resources that are currently available to state policymakers. If the Committee believes that this consideration has merit and views the Office of Federal-State Relations to be duplicative, it could consider eliminating the Office and the associated staff assigned to it.

9. However, DOA, DHFS, DWD and DOT could argue that the benefits to the state of having on-site staff available in Washington to monitor and participate in the development of federal legislation outweigh the costs of maintaining the Office. Further, the Office plays an important role in informing state agencies of federal legislative proposals. For these reasons, the Committee may wish to retain the Office.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Repeal the statutory authorization for an Office of Federal-State Relations in Washington, D. C., and delete the following funding amounts and position authorizations associated with staff assigned to the Office by the following state agencies: (a) \$267,300 GPR annually and 2.0 GPR unclassified positions in the Department of Administration; (b) \$121,300 GPR annually and 1.0 GPR position and \$43,700 FED annually and 1.0 FED position in the Department of Health and Family Services; (c) \$100,200 SEG annually and 1.0 SEG position in the Department of Transportation; and (d) \$55,800 PR annually and 1.0 PR project position in the Department of Workforce Development.

<u>Alternative 1</u>	<u>GPR</u>	<u>FED</u>	<u>PR</u>	<u>SEG</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2001-03 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	- \$777,200	- \$87,400	- \$111,600	- \$200,400	- \$1,176,600
2002-03 POSITIONS (Change to Bill)	- 3.00	- 1.00	- 1.00	- 1.00	- 6.00

2. Delete the following funding amounts and position authorizations associated with one or more of the following staff assigned to the Office of Federal-State Relations in Washington, D.C.:

a. Department of Administration: \$175,800 GPR annually and 2.0 GPR unclassified positions [*\$91,500 GPR annually would be retained for office rent and related supplies under this alternative*].

<u>Alternative 2a</u>	<u>GPR</u>
2001-03 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	- \$351,600
2002-03 POSITIONS (Change to Bill)	- 2.00

b. Department of Health and Family Services: \$121,300 GPR annually and 1.0 GPR position and \$43,700 FED annually and 1.0 FED position.

Alternative 2b	GPR	FED	TOTAL
2001-03 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	- \$242,600	- \$87,400	- \$330,000
2002-03 POSITIONS (Change to Bill)	- 1.00	- 1.00	- 2.00

c. Department of Transportation: \$100,200 SEG annually and 1.0 SEG position.

Alternative 2c	SEG
2001-03 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	- \$200,400
2002-03 POSITIONS (Change to Bill)	- 1.00

d. Department of Workforce Development: \$55,800 PR annually and 1.0 PR project position.

Alternative 2d	PR
2001-03 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	- \$111,600
2002-03 POSITIONS (Change to Bill)	- 1.00

3. Maintain current law.

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