



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #139

Wisconsin Land Council Staffing (DOA -- Land Information)

CURRENT LAW

The Wisconsin Land Council is staffed by 1.0 PR permanent position and 3.0 PR project positions in the Department of Administration's Office of Land Information Services. Base level funding for the Council and associated staff is \$319,600 PR annually, derived from assessments from six state agencies.

GOVERNOR

Delete \$68,300 PR in 2001-02 and \$136,600 PR in 2002-03 to reflect the expiration of 3.0 PR Wisconsin Land Council project positions on December 31, 2001.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The Wisconsin Land Council was created by 1997 Wisconsin Act 27. One FTE permanent position was provided under Act 27 for the Council and is now shared by the administrator and the deputy administrator of the Office of Land Information Services. An additional 3.0 PR four-year project positions were also authorized by Act 27 for the Council and will expire December 31, 2001.

2. The 3.0 FTE expiring project positions provide all of the research, technical and clerical support available to the Council in support of its duties and responsibilities. Under current law, the Council is required to identify the state's land use goals and priorities and to study current land use laws in order to identify areas of overlap and lack of coordination. By September 1, 2002, the Land Council is directed by statute to prepare a report on whether the Land Council should be continued beyond its scheduled September 1, 2002, sunset date and whether other changes should

be made to the state's land use programs.

3. DOA has indicated in a letter to the Committee that the biennial budget bill should have included \$68,300 PR in 2001-02 and \$136,600 PR in 2002-03 and 3.0 PR positions to continue the Council's research and clerical support staff on a permanent basis. DOA stated that providing permanent position authority and associated funding for these positions was indicated in light of the Governor's budget recommendation to repeal the current sunset of the Wisconsin Land Council.

4. Regardless of whether the Committee acts to make the Land Council permanent at this time, the Council's current statutory responsibilities and required September 1, 2002, report on state land use programs would argue for a continuation of its research and support staff. If the Committee acts to provide these permanent positions and funding and the Council's September 1, 2003, sunset date is not lifted, these positions would be terminated on that date.

ALTERNATIVES TO BILL

1. Provide \$68,300 PR in 2001-02 and \$136,600 PR and 3.0 PR positions for the Wisconsin Land Council.

Alternative 1	PR
2001-03 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	\$204,900
2002-03 POSITIONS (Change to Bill)	3.00

2. Take no action.

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