

Legislative Branch

The legislative branch: profile of the legislative branch, description of the legislative process, summary of 2005-06 legislation, and description of legislative committees and service agencies

1882 Assembly Chief Clerk and Staff



OFFICERS OF THE 2007 LEGISLATURE

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 President pro tempore Senator Tim Carpenter
 Chief clerk Honorable Robert J. Marchant
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Minority Party Officers

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Assistant leader	Senator Dave Hansen	Senator Joseph K. Leibham
Caucus chairperson	Senator Mark Miller	Senator Glenn Grothman
Caucus vice chairperson .	Senator Jeffrey T. Plale	Senator Carol A. Roessler
Caucus sergeant at arms	Senator Spencer Coggs	None
Caucus secretary	Senator Jim Sullivan	None

Chief Clerk: Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Location: B20 South East, State Capitol; Telephone: (608) 266-2517.

Sergeant at Arms: Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Location: B35 South, State Capitol; Telephone: (608) 266-1801.

ASSEMBLY

Speaker Representative Michael D. Huebsch
 Speaker pro tempore Representative Mark Gottlieb
 Chief clerk Honorable Patrick E. Fuller
 Sergeant at arms Honorable Richard A. Skindrud

Majority Party Officers

Minority Party Officers

Leader	Representative Jeff Fitzgerald	Representative James E. Kreuser
Assistant leader	Representative Mark Gundrum	Representative Jon Richards
Caucus chairperson	Representative Mark R. Honadel	Representative Anthony J. Staskunas
Caucus vice chairperson .	Representative Pat Strachota	Representative Tamara D. Grigsby
Caucus secretary	Representative Mary Williams	Representative Donna J. Seidel
Caucus sergeant at arms .	Representative Jerry Petrowski	Representative Ann Hrachuck

Chief Clerk: Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8952, Madison 53708-8952; Location: 17 West Main Street, Suite 401; Telephone: (608) 266-1501.

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LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: Monday-Friday, 8:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Telephone: Madison Area: 266-9960; Outside Madison Area: (800) 362-9472.

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LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

A PROFILE OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The legislative branch consists of the bicameral Wisconsin Legislature, made up of the senate with 33 members and the assembly with 99 members, together with the service agencies created by the legislature and the staff employed by each house. The legislature's main responsibility is to make policy by enacting state laws. Its service agencies assist it by performing fiscal analysis, research, bill drafting, auditing, statute editing, and information technology functions.

A new legislature is sworn into office in January of each odd-numbered year, and it meets in continuous biennial session until its successor is sworn in. The 2007 Legislature is the 98th Wisconsin Legislature. It convened on January 3, 2007, and will continue until January 5, 2009.

U.S. and Wisconsin Constitutions Grant Broad Legislative Powers. The power to determine the state's policies and programs lies primarily in the legislative branch of state government. According to the Wisconsin Constitution: "The legislative power shall be vested in a senate and assembly." This power is quite extensive, but certain limitations are imposed by the U.S. Constitution and the Wisconsin Constitution. In addition, the legislature's power is restricted by the governor's authority to veto legislation, but a veto may be overridden by a two-thirds vote in both houses of the legislature.

All actions taken by the legislature must conform with the U.S. Constitution. For example, the U.S. Congress has exclusive powers to regulate foreign affairs and coin money, and states are denied the power to make treaties with foreign countries. In addition, state legislation may not abridge the rights guaranteed in the U.S. Bill of Rights. Powers that are not granted exclusively to the U.S. Congress or denied the states are considered to be reserved for the individual states.

In addition to the boundaries set by the U.S. Constitution, the legislature's authority is also limited by the state constitution. For instance, the Wisconsin Constitution requires the legislature to establish as uniform a system of town government as practicable, prevents it from enacting private or special laws on certain subjects, and prohibits laws that would infringe on the rights of Wisconsin citizens, as protected by the Declaration of Rights of the Wisconsin Constitution.

Biennial Sessions: 4-Year Senate Terms; 2-Year Assembly Terms. Originally, members of the assembly served for one year, while senators served for 2 years. An 1881 constitutional amendment doubled the respective terms to the current 2 and 4 years and converted the legislature from annual to biennial sessions.

Since its adoption on March 13, 1848, the Wisconsin Constitution has provided that the membership of the assembly shall be not less than 54 nor more than 100, and the membership of the senate shall consist of not more than one-third nor less than one-fourth of the number of assembly members. The first legislature had 85 members – 19 senators and 66 assemblymen. (Assembly members were renamed "representatives to the assembly" in 1969.) The number increased several times until the legislature became a 133-member body in 1862, with the constitutionally permitted maximums of 33 in the senate and 100 in the assembly. Over a century later, membership dropped to 132 in the 1973 Legislature, when the number of representatives was reduced to 99 so that each of the 33 senate districts would encompass 3 assembly districts. This is the current number and structure.

THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

Number of Positions 2007 Legislature: Senate: 33 members, 203 employees; Assembly: 99 members, 317 employees.

Total Budget 2005-07: \$130,706,400 (including service agencies).

Constitutional Reference: Article IV.

Statutory Reference: Chapter 13, Subchapter I.

Election of Legislators. All members of the legislature are elected from single-member districts. At the general election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years, the voters of Wisconsin elect all members of the assembly and approximately one-half of the senators. These legislators-elect assume office in January of the following odd-numbered year when they convene to open the new legislative session at the State Capitol, together with the “holdover” senators who still have 2 years remaining of their 4-year terms. When a midterm vacancy occurs in any legislative office, it is filled through a special election called by the governor.

The 33 senators are elected for 4-year terms from districts numbered 1 through 33. The 16 senators representing even-numbered districts are elected in the years in which a presidential election occurs. The 17 senators who represent odd-numbered districts are elected in the years in which a gubernatorial election is held.

Since statehood in 1848, the Wisconsin Constitution has required the legislature, after each U.S. decennial census, to redraw the districts for both houses “according to the number of inhabitants”. Thus, Wisconsin was following this practice long before the U.S. Supreme Court decided in 1962 that all states must redistrict according to the “one person, one vote” principle.

Under the campaign finance reporting law enacted by the 1973 Legislature, candidates for the legislature, as well as for other public offices, are required to make full, detailed disclosure of their campaign contributions and expenditures. Candidates must make this disclosure to the Elections Division of the Government Accountability Board. Limits are placed on the amounts of contributions received from individuals and various committees. State law also requires legislators and candidates for legislative office to file a statement of their economic interests with the Ethics and Accountability Division of the Government Accountability Board. A 1977 law authorized candidates for legislative office and statewide executive and judicial offices to receive public campaign funding from state revenues, funded by a \$1 check-off on state individual income tax returns.

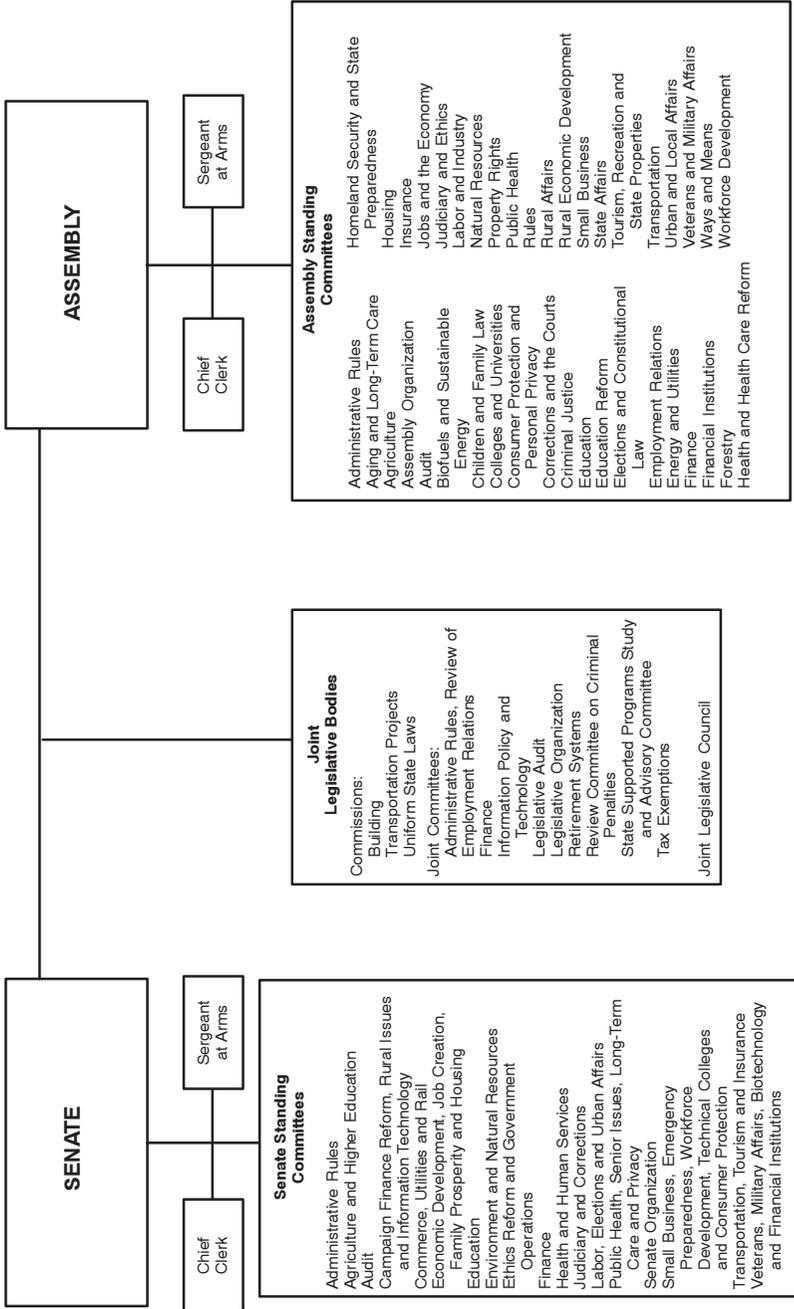
Political Parties in the Legislative Process. Partisan political organizations play an important role in the Wisconsin legislative process. Since 1949, virtually all legislators have been affiliated with either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. The strongest representation of other parties was between 1911 and 1937, when there were one or more Socialists in the legislature, and between 1933 and 1947, when the Progressives maintained an independent party. In fact, in 1937 the Progressive Party had a plurality in both houses.

Party organization in the legislature is based on the party group called the “caucus”. In each house, all members of a particular political party form that party’s caucus. Thus, there are four caucuses related to the party divisions in the two houses. The primary purpose of a caucus is to help party members maintain a unified position on critical issues. Party leaders, however, do not expect to secure party uniformity on every measure under consideration.

Caucus meetings may be held at regular intervals or whenever convened by party leaders, and occasionally the senate and assembly caucuses of the same party meet in joint caucus. A caucus meeting is scheduled shortly after the general election and before the opening of the session to select candidates for the various leadership positions in each house. Although each party caucus nominates a slate of officers, the positions are usually won by the nominees of the majority party when a vote is taken in the full house.

Legislative Officers and Leadership. The Wisconsin Constitution originally required the lieutenant governor to serve as president of the senate. As a result of an April 1979 constitutional amendment, the senate now selects its own president from among its members. When the president of the senate is absent or unable to preside, the president pro tempore, elected from the membership, may preside as substitute president.

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE



The presiding officer of the assembly is the speaker, who is elected by majority vote of the assembly membership. The speaker supervises all other officers of the chamber and appoints committees. When the speaker is absent or unable to preside, the speaker pro tempore, who is also elected from the membership, may substitute.

Each party in each house elects floor leaders, respectively known as the majority leader and assistant majority leader and the minority leader and assistant minority leader. To varying degrees, these party officers play powerful roles in directing and coordinating legislative activities.

Each house has a chief clerk and a sergeant at arms, who are elected by, but are not themselves members of, the legislature. The chief clerk serves as the clerk of the house when it is in session and supervises the preparation of legislative records. In conjunction with the presiding officers, the chief clerks supervise personnel and administrative functions for their respective houses. The sergeants at arms maintain order in and about the chambers and supervise the messengers.

Legislative Compensation. When the 2007 Legislature convened on January 3, 2007, all members were eligible for a salary of \$47,413 per year. The process for setting legislative salaries requires the Director of the Office of State Employment Relations to submit proposed changes as part of the state compensation plan to the legislature's Joint Committee on Employment Relations. If the committee approves the plan, the new salary goes into effect for all legislators at the next inauguration. The committee also sets the salaries of the chief clerks and the sergeants at arms of the two houses within a range established under civil service procedures.

Members of the legislature, the chief clerks, and the sergeants at arms are entitled to an allowance not to exceed \$88 per day ("per diem") for living expenses for each day spent in Madison on legislative business if they certify by affidavit that they have established temporary residence at the state capital. Those who choose not to establish temporary residence are entitled to half that amount. All members are reimbursed for one weekly round trip from the capital to their homes. They also are reimbursed for expenses incurred while serving as legislative members of a state



Legislators meet in party caucus in order to elect leadership and formulate policy positions. Representative Gary Hebl, of Sun Prairie, addresses Assembly Democrats in November 2006. (Brent Nicastro, Legislative Photographer)

2007-2008 SESSION SCHEDULE

January 3, 2007	2007 Inauguration
January 9, 2007	Floorperiod
January 30-February 1, 2007	Floorperiod
February 13, 2007	Floorperiod
February 20-March 1, 2007	Floorperiod
March 13-15, 2007	Floorperiod
April 17-26, 2007	Floorperiod
May 3, 2007	Deadline for sending bills to governor
May 8-17, 2007	Floorperiod
May 29-June 29, 2007 (or until passage of budget)	Floorperiod
August 9, 2007	Deadline for sending nonbudget bills to governor
August 9, 2007 (or later)	Deadline for sending budget bill to governor*
September 18-20, 2007	Floorperiod
October 23-November 8, 2007	Floorperiod
December 11-13, 2007	Floorperiod
January 10, 2008	Deadline for sending bills to governor
January 15-31, 2008	Floorperiod
February 19-March 13, 2008	Last general-business floorperiod
April 3, 2008	Deadline for sending bills to governor
May 6-8, 2008	Limited-business floorperiod
May 15, 2008	Deadline for sending bills to governor
May 27 and 28, 2008	Veto review floorperiod
May 29, 2008-January 5, 2009	Interim committee work
June 11, 2008	Deadline for sending bills to governor
January 5, 2009	2009 Inauguration

Any floorperiod may be convened earlier or extended beyond its scheduled dates by majority action of the membership or the organization committees of the two houses. The Committee on Senate Organization may schedule sessions outside floorperiods for senate action on gubernatorial nominations, but the assembly does not have to hold skeleton sessions during these appointment reviews. The legislature may call itself into extraordinary session or the governor may call a special session during a floorperiod or on any intervening day.

*Deadline for budget bill will depend on bill's passage.

Source: 2007 Senate Joint Resolution 1.

or interstate agency or when specifically authorized to attend meetings of such agencies as non-members. The Speaker of the Assembly also receives a stipend, currently \$25 per month.

Legislators receive allowances for their office and mailing expenses while attending legislative sessions. If the legislature is in session three or fewer days in a particular month, legislative leadership may authorize an interim expense allowance to cover postage and clerical assistance (\$25 for representatives and \$75 for senators).

Legislative Sessions. Members of each new legislature convene in the State Capitol at 2 p.m. on the first Monday in January of each odd-numbered year to take the oath of office, select officers, and organize for business. The initial meeting occurs on January 3 if the first Monday falls on January 1 or 2. The previous legislature usually holds its adjournment meeting on the same day, just prior to the convening of the new legislature. Thus, there is almost no interim between the two.

Originally, the constitution required the legislature to meet once during each annual session. An 1881 amendment restricted the body to one meeting in the two years comprising the biennial session. As a result, the legislature scheduled its meetings in a continuing biennial session with periodic recesses. It would meet in regular session from January through June of the odd-numbered year and then recess after completing the major portion of its work. It then reconvened from time to time in the remainder of the biennium, as needed. When a legislature had completed its work for the biennium, it adjourned *sine die*, meaning it did not set a date to reconvene. At that point, the 2-year session was over, and the legislature could not return unless called into special session by the governor.

In 1968, the state constitution was amended to permit the legislature to determine its own meeting schedule for the biennium. Beginning with the 1971 Legislature, annual sessions were formally initiated by law with the requirement that regular sessions begin in January of each year.

Early in each biennium, the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization develops a work schedule for the 2-year period and submits it to the legislature in the form of a joint resolution. The 2007-2008 session schedule, for example, is structured around 15 floorperiods, with periods of committee work interspersed throughout the biennium.

Meetings of the respective houses of the legislature are held in the senate and assembly chambers in the State Capitol. Usually, the legislature meets Tuesday through Thursday of each week. Toward the end of many floorperiods, however, the houses may meet continuously during the day Tuesday through Friday and hold evening sessions. Unless otherwise ordered, daily sessions begin at 10 a.m. for the senate and 9 a.m. for the assembly (10 a.m. on the first legislative day of the week). Daily sessions usually extend beyond noon, especially later in the legislative session. If business permits, afternoons may be devoted to committee hearings or a combination of hearings and late afternoon sessions.

As illustrated in the foregoing description, the word “session” has several meanings. The “legislative session” usually refers to the 2-year period that comprises a particular legislature. If the legislature is “not in session”, that may mean it is in an interim period between floorperiods. Saying that either the senate or assembly is “not in session”, however, may mean that the house has adjourned for the day or that it has recessed until a later hour of the same day.

Extraordinary and Special Sessions. Beginning in 1962, the legislature adopted procedures that would permit it to reassemble through a petition signed by a majority of the members of each house. An amendment to the 1977 Joint Rules codified this procedure by allowing the legislature to call itself into an “extraordinary session”. The legislature may convene in extraordinary session or extend a floorperiod at the direction of the majority of the members of the organization committee in each house, by passage of a joint resolution, or by a joint petition signed by the majority of members of each house.

In addition, the governor has the authority to call a “special session”, in which the legislature can act only upon matters specifically mentioned in the governor’s call. As of the adjournment of the 2005 Legislature, there had been 81 special sessions since Wisconsin became a state in 1848. It is possible for a regular session and a special session to be scheduled at different times during a week or even on the same day. Because special sessions may occur at any time during the legislative biennium, enactments resulting from a special session are now numbered within the regular sequence of biennial laws.

Session Records. Each house of the legislature keeps a record of its actions known as the daily journal. This record differs from the federal *Congressional Record* in that it does not provide a transcript or abbreviated account of speeches made on the floor. It is, instead, an outline record of the business before the house, including procedural actions taken on all measures considered on that particular day, roll call votes, communications received from the governor or the other house, special committee reports, and miscellaneous items.

The *Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Wisconsin Legislature* is generally issued weekly during floorperiods and less often during committee work periods. Each issue contains a cumulative record of actions taken on bills, joint resolutions, and resolutions by both houses, listed by bill or resolution number. It includes a subject and author index to legislation; a subject index to the legislative journals; a subject index to new laws and enrolled bills and joint resolutions; a numeric listing of statute sections affected by these laws; changes made to statutory court rules by supreme court orders; and the complete text of constitutional amendments ratified since the most recent publication of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. Another part indexes and reports action on administrative rule changes. The *Bulletin* also includes a directory of lobbying organizations, licensed lobbyists, and legislative liaisons from state agencies.

Each week during the session, the chief clerks jointly issue a *Weekly Schedule of Committee Activities*, listing the business scheduled by the various committees for the coming week, together with the time and place of each hearing and advanced notices on hearings deemed to be of special interest. Each house also issues a daily calendar indicating the business to be taken up on the floor that day.

Complete texts of bills, amendments, and resolutions; bill histories; a subject index to legislation; hearing notices and calendars; and other information on the legislature are available on the Internet at www.legis.state.wi.us. Reference copies of all these legislative documents are avail-



The President of the Senate usually presides over the body from the dais. In order to advocate a position, the president must yield the chair to another member and address the body from the floor. Here President Fred Risser, of Madison, speaks from his assigned seat in the Senate Chamber. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

able at the Legislative Reference Bureau, and numerous libraries throughout the state also receive them. Individuals and organizations may subscribe to receive printed versions of legislative documents. (See the table on Legislative Service in this section for fees and details.)

Standing Committees. To a large extent, the legislature does its work in committees. In the 2007 Legislature, the senate has 18 standing committees, the assembly 40, and there are 10 joint standing committees, composed of members from both houses. Joint standing committees are created in the statutes and membership is determined by law. Regular standing committees are created under the rules of their respective houses.

The standing committees in the individual houses consist of legislators only and operate throughout the biennium. Each committee is concerned with one or more broad subject areas related to government functions. It may hold public hearings on measures introduced in the legislature, conduct studies and investigations, and generally review matters within its area of concern. Legislative committees may also appoint subcommittees or study groups.

Senate rules require that each senator serve on at least one standing committee, and the Committee on Senate Organization sets the number of members on each committee. Usually the two major political parties are represented on the committees in proportion to their membership in the senate. The chairperson of the organization committee, who is also the majority leader, makes the appointments to committees. Committee nominations for individual members of the minority party are proposed by that party. An exception to the general method of appointment is the Committee on Senate Organization. It is an *ex officio* committee, consisting of members in leadership positions: the president, the majority and minority leaders, and the assistant leaders.

In the assembly, the speaker determines the number of members of each committee and the division of membership between the majority and minority parties. Under assembly rules, the speaker appoints majority party committee members directly and minority party committee members upon nomination by the assembly minority leader. Customarily, every member serves on at least one committee, although the rules are silent on the distribution of committee assignments. The

speaker may appoint himself or herself to one or more standing committees and is a nonvoting member of all others. By rule, the Committee on Assembly Organization is composed of the speaker, the speaker pro tempore, the majority and minority leaders, the assistant leaders, and the caucus chairpersons. The Committee on Rules includes all members of the organization committee plus one majority and one minority party member appointed by the speaker.

Temporary Special Committees. In addition to the standing committees, special committees may be appointed during a legislative session to study specific problems or conduct designated investigations and report to the legislature before the conclusion of the session.

Prior to 1947, the legislature created interim committees to investigate particular subjects. They functioned between legislative sessions and reported their findings and recommendations to the next legislature. Since 1947, almost all interim studies have been referred to the Joint Legislative Council, which coordinates a program of study and investigation after deciding which topics it will consider. The council usually appoints separate committees to study specific matters, and these committees include nonlegislative members.

Employees of the Legislature. Each house of the legislature provides staff services, which are managed by the respective chief clerk and sergeant at arms under the supervision of the Committee on Senate Organization or the speaker of the assembly. Although senate and assembly employees are not part of the classified service, they are paid in accordance with the compensation and classification plan established for employees in the classified service and within pay ranges approved by the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization.

The legislature employs six service agencies to provide financial and program audits, fiscal information and analysis, bill drafting, research services, legal counsel and policy assistance, computer and telecommunications services, and statutory revision.



The media is an important tool for legislators to communicate with the public. Senator Sheila Harsdorf, of River Falls, and Representative Fred Kessler, of Milwaukee (far left), who have both introduced legislation related to genocide in Sudan, hold a press conference in the Senate Parlor. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

**NEWS MEDIA CORRESPONDENTS
ACCREDITED TO THE 2007 LEGISLATURE
January 3, 2007**

Organization	Correspondents	Telephone
Newspaper and Wire Services		
Appleton Post-Crescent	Ben Jones	255-9256
Associated Press	Scott Bauer, Ryan Foley, Todd Richmond	255-3679
Badger Herald	Jessi Polsky	257-4712
Capital Times	Dave Callender, Judith Davidoff	252-6429
Capitol News Service	Stan Milam, Jay Webster	(608) 774-8584
Green Bay Press-Gazette	Karen Michel	255-9254
Isthmus	Bill Lueders	251-5627
Lee Newspapers/WSJ	Tom Sheehan	252-6198/(800) 362-8333, ext. 6198
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel	Stacy Forster, Patrick Marley, Steve Walters	258-2262/258-2274
Wheeler News Service	Thom Gerresten	(715) 389-2373
Wheeler Reports	George Coburn, Gwyn Guenther, Dick Wheeler	287-0130
Wisconsin Catholic Newspapers	John Huebscher	257-0004
Wisconsin State Journal	Mark Pitsch, Jason Stein	252-6145/252-6129
Radio and Television		
WIBA-AM and FM (Madison)	John Colbert	251-1978/274-2995
WISC-TV (Madison)	Colin Benedict	277-5246
WKOW-TV (Madison)	Judy Frankel	273-2727
WMTV-TV (Madison)	Ryan Lobenstein	274-1500
WNWC-FM (Madison)	Christie McKittrick	271-1025
WOLX-FM (Madison)	Adam Elliot	826-0077
WTDY-AM (Madison)	Erik Greenfield, Rick Schuh, Jamie Westphal	271-1301
Wisconsin Public Radio	Shawn Johnson, Michael Leland, Shamane Mills	265-4358/263-7985
Wisconsin Public Television	Kathy Bissen, Frederica Freyberg, Art Hackett, Andy Moore	263-2121/263-8496/ 263-8585/263-5628/ 265-6646
Wisconsin Radio Network	Andrew Beckett, Jim Dick, Bob Hague, Jackie Johnson	251-3900
Internet News Service		
Wispolitics.com	Greg Bump, James Greer, Mike Schramm	441-8418

Sources: Assembly Sergeant at Arms and information from various news organizations.

THE LEGISLATURE ON THE INTERNET

Legislative Information

The Wisconsin Legislature's Internet home page at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us> provides extensive information regarding the legislature and the legislative process. Follow the links under **Legislative Activity** to access basic information on current legislative activity. **Request text and history of legislative proposals** allows users to access legislative documents by bill or act number. The **Spotlight** link provides a weekly update on recent actions in the legislature. In addition, the legislative **service agencies** have individual home pages where many of their publications are available.

The next search engine enables users to search for specific acts, bills, or statutes from 1995 to date. It also offers access to a variety of other legislative documents and indexes, which can also be searched by word. **Searchable Infobases** offers access to next on the legislature's Web site.

The legislature's home page links to individual legislator's home pages, which include information such as e-mail addresses, district maps, committee assignments, and biographical information. Some legislators also provide brief audio clips and personally designed pages to communicate with their constituents.

Live Video and Audio – WisconsinEye

WisconsinEye, a private, nonprofit public affairs network, began offering exclusive live video and audio of legislative floor sessions and certain other legislative activities in May 2007. Links to live video and audio, as well as archives of past activity, are available at <http://wisconsineye.org>.

Legislative Notification Service

This service allows citizens to track legislation by creating a profile of items of interest. Profiles may include specific proposals identified by author, committee, or subject matter and may specify activity occurring at various stages of the legislative process. After a profile is filed on the Web site <http://notify.legis.state.wi.us>, users will receive daily or weekly e-mails of relevant activities.

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

The legislature decides policy by passing bills. A bill must pass both houses of the legislature and be signed by the governor before it becomes law. Other proposals introduced in the legislature also support the body's policy making function. Joint resolutions, which must pass both houses, may propose constitutional amendments, develop a session schedule, or modify the rules that govern both houses. They do not require the governor's signature. Simple resolutions, which are adopted by only one house, may organize the house at the beginning of the session, propose changes to house rules, or ask the attorney general for a legal opinion on a bill.

Introducing a Bill. A bill that proposes to make a change in current law will amend, create, repeal, renumber, renumber and amend, or repeal and recreate one or more sections of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. After the Legislative Reference Bureau drafts a bill, it is ready for introduction in one of the legislative houses. Each measure must go through regular procedures and be passed by the house of origin before it can go to the other house, where the process is repeated.

No one but individual legislators or legislative committees may introduce a bill. However, the statutes direct the Joint Committee on Finance to introduce the governor's executive budget bill without change. The legislator who introduces a bill is its "author"; others in the house of origin who support the bill may sign on as "coauthors". The measure may also list "cosponsors" from the second house.

When passing laws, legislators act as the representatives of the people. Therefore, the constitution requires that every bill introduced in the legislature begin with the words: "The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:"

Fiscal Estimates and Bill Analyses. Fiscal estimates put a price tag on legislation. In 1953, Wisconsin pioneered fiscal estimates, often called "fiscal notes", and many other states have copied this important legislative tool. Every measure that increases or decreases state or general local government revenues or expenditures must be accompanied by a reliable estimate of its short-range and long-range fiscal effects. Agencies that would ultimately administer the proposed program or be affected by the measure, should it be enacted, prepare most fiscal notes. In the highly technical area of public retirement systems, the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems prepares fiscal estimates with the assistance of Legislative Council staff. In these cases, the note must evaluate not only the fiscal effect of a proposal but also its legality under state and federal law and its desirability as a matter of public policy.

Since 1967, the Legislative Reference Bureau has prepared an analysis of each bill introduced in the legislature, explaining in plain language the existing law and how it will change if the bill becomes law. The analysis is printed in the bill immediately following the title. As a general rule, analyses are not updated to reflect amendments approved during the legislative process, so they usually describe only the content of the bill at introduction.

Introduction, First Reading, and Referral to Committee. A bill is introduced when the chief clerk of the author's house assigns it a number and records the introduction for the house journal. Traditionally, the "first reading" took place when the clerk read that part of the proposal's title known as the "relating clause" – the clause that briefly describes the subject matter of the bill, e.g., "relating to the powers and duties of state traffic patrol officers and motor vehicle inspectors" when the house was meeting. In recent times, the clerk usually distributes a report showing the numbers and relating clauses of proposals offered for introduction which takes the place of an actual reading. After first reading, the presiding officer usually refers the proposal to the appropriate standing committee for review. Generally bills that appropriate money, provide for revenue, or relate to taxation are referred to the Joint Committee on Finance before they can be enacted into law.

Committee Hearings. All committee proceedings are open to the general public. Neither assembly nor senate rules require a chairperson to schedule a hearing. If a hearing is held, anyone may speak to the committee to support or oppose a measure or merely to present information to the committee without taking a position. Persons may also register for or against a proposal or submit written comments or petitions without making an oral presentation.



A member may yield the floor for a question from another member. Assistant Senate Majority Leader Dave Hansen, left, and Senate Minority Leader Scott Fitzgerald engage in such an exchange. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Committees do not keep verbatim transcripts of their hearings, but they do maintain appearance records listing persons who testify or register at the hearing, together with any printed information those parties submit relative to bills and resolutions before the committee. Records for the current legislative session are filed in the office of the committee chairperson. Copies of appearance records for prior sessions, beginning with the 1951 session, are filed in the Legislative Reference Bureau.

The chairperson of a committee decides whether or not to take action on a particular proposal. If the decision is to act, the chairperson will call an “executive session” of the committee. In the session, committee members discuss the bill and may ask questions of persons in attendance, but no further public testimony is taken. At the close of the executive session, the committee decides whether to recommend passage of the bill as originally introduced, passage with amendments, or rejection. If the result is a tie vote, the committee can report the bill without recommendation. A committee’s decision is contained in a brief report to the house. (Bills that receive a negative recommendation are almost never reported to the floor.)

The following is an example of a committee report to the assembly from the *Assembly Journal*, June 14, 2007:

The committee on **Natural Resources** reports and recommends:

Assembly Bill 49

Relating to: fees charged to qualified lake associations for relating permits to control aquatic plants.

Assembly Amendment 1 adoption:

Ayes: 8 – Representatives Gunderson, J. Ott, Bies, LeMahieu, M. Williams, Moulton, Nerison and Mursau.

Noes: 6 – Representatives Black, Molepske, Steinbrink, Hraychuck, Hebl and Mason.

Passage as amended:

Ayes: 8 – Representatives Gunderson, J. Ott, Bies, LeMahieu, M. Williams, Moulton, Nerison and Mursau.

Noes: 6 – Representatives Black, Molepske, Steinbrink, Hraychuck, Hebl and Mason.

Scott Gunderson

Chairperson

Natural Resources

Committee chairpersons determine the scheduling of committee hearings. A committee is allowed a reasonable period of time to consider matters referred to it. A majority of the members of the assembly may withdraw a bill not reported by an assembly committee 21 days after the date of referral by motion or petition. In the senate, a majority may vote to withdraw a bill from a committee at any time but not during the 7 days preceding any scheduled committee hearing nor the 7 days following the date on which the hearing was held. In both houses, when an attempt is unsuccessful, all subsequent motions to withdraw the same proposal require at least a two-thirds vote of the members. In practice, bills are very rarely withdrawn from committees without a committee report.

Scheduling Debate. Both the senate and assembly make use of a daily calendar to schedule proposals for consideration. In the 2007 Legislature, all proposals reported by senate standing committees are referred to the Committee on Senate Organization; in the assembly, they are referred to the Committee on Rules. These committees schedule business for floor debate.

Parliamentary Procedure. The rules of parliamentary procedure, which are guides for each house, facilitate the legislative process and are printed in pamphlets, titled “Senate Rules” and “Assembly Rules”. Each house may create new rules and amend or repeal its current rules by passage of a simple resolution. “Joint Rules” deal with the relations between the houses and with administrative proceedings common to both. Changes in joint rules require the passage of a joint resolution.

Parliamentary process may seem unduly cumbersome to the onlooker, but it helps the houses operate in an organized fashion. The process is designed to protect the minority in its right to be heard and to promote careful deliberation and orderly consideration of all legislation. For particularly difficult procedural questions, the presiding officer of each house has access to such standard sources as *Mason’s Manual of Legislative Procedure*, *Jefferson’s Manual*, and *Rulings of the Chair*.

Second Reading. Once a bill is scheduled for house action, the clerk gives it a second reading by title. The purpose of a second reading is to consider amendments. An amendment may be a “simple” amendment, which makes changes within the bill, or a “substitute amendment”, which completely replaces the original bill. Members may offer, debate, and vote upon amendments at any time prior to a vote to “engross” the measure and read it a third time. Engrossment of a bill incorporates all adopted amendments and all approved technical corrections into a proposal in its house of origin. The rules of both houses require a formal delay after the proposal is engrossed, which gives legislators time to reconsider the issues raised by the bill. In many cases, however, the rules are suspended by unanimous consent or a two-thirds vote so that second and third readings can occur on the same legislative day.

Third Reading. The purpose of the third reading is to make a final decision on a proposal itself. After a third reading, the proposal is put to the house for a vote with the following questions: “This bill having been read 3 separate times, the question is, ‘Shall the bill pass?’” (for the senate) or “Shall the bill be passed?” (for the assembly). Members can debate the bill’s contents at this point, but it is not subject to amendment. When all members finish speaking they vote. A bill may pass on a voice vote, unless a roll call vote is required by the state constitution, by law or legislative rule, or by request of a prescribed number of members.

Action in the Second House. If the bill passes, it is “messed” (sent) to the other house, where it goes through substantially the same procedure as in the first house. In the second house, however, the bill may be referred directly to the daily calendar without referral to a standing committee. When the second house concurs in the bill, whether with or without additional amendments, the measure is messed back to the house of origin.

If the second house amends the bill before concurring, the house of origin must vote upon those amendments. If the original house rejects amendments or further amends the bill, the resulting

proposal may be sent back to the second house or to a conference committee made up of members representing both houses, where attempts are made to iron out the differences between the 2 versions. The compromise version, drawn up by the conference committee, cannot be amended in either house when it is brought to a vote. When both houses have agreed on identical wording of a bill, the Legislative Reference Bureau “enrolls” it in its final form, incorporating any amendments and corrections approved by both houses, and the measure is forwarded for the governor’s signature.

On average about 1,600 bills were introduced in each of the past 10 legislatures, but only about 20% of those passed. Bills fail for many reasons: the house of origin may vote to “indefinitely postpone” or “table” a bill and then never take it up again; the second house may vote to “nonconcur” or may concur but with amendments unacceptable to the house of origin; or the proposal may “die in committee” and never be reported back to the house. An unsuccessful proposal does not carry over to the following legislature. A member must reintroduce it as a new bill.



Each house of the legislature elects leadership to advance its policy agenda. Senate Majority Leader Judy Robson, of Beloit, addresses the Senate as Assistant Majority Leader Dave Hansen, of Green Bay, and Senator Russ Decker, of Weston, listen. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Action of the Governor. The governor has 6 days (excluding Sundays) in which to act on the bill by: 1) signing it, in which case it becomes law; 2) vetoing it in whole or, if an appropriation bill, in part; or 3) failing to sign it within 6 days, in which case it becomes law without the governor’s signature. Partial veto of words or numbers within a bill is permitted in the case of bills which contain an appropriation. If the governor signs the bill but vetoes part of it, the portion not vetoed becomes law.

Bills are not sent to the office of the governor immediately following passage but are presented when the governor calls for them. The legislative session schedule, however, provides deadlines after each floorperiod when all bills not yet called for must be sent to the governor. It also provides a specific floorperiod for final legislative review of the governor’s vetoes.

If the governor vetoes a bill, in whole or part, the vetoed parts must be returned to the house of origin with the governor’s written objections. A vetoed bill or part of a bill can become law despite the governor’s objections, but it requires a two-thirds vote in each house to override the

veto. If either house fails to muster the sufficient number of votes, the governor's veto is sustained, and the vetoed bill or portion dies.

Session Laws. Each new law is numbered as a Wisconsin Act, based on the year of the legislative session and its order of enactment, e.g., 2007 Wisconsin Act 1. The date of enactment is the date the governor approves the act, the date it becomes a law without the governor's signature, or the date the legislature votes to override the governor's veto. The secretary of state assigns the new law a date of publication. On or before that date, copies of the act in pamphlet form, called a "slip law", must be available for public distribution. The secretary of state must publish the act's number, title, and original bill number within 10 working days after the date of enactment in the newspaper designated as the official state paper for publication of legal notices (currently the *Wisconsin State Journal*). The notice contains the date of enactment and date of publication and states the act is available for public distribution. The act takes effect the day after its assigned publication date, unless another effective date is specified in the law itself.

Ultimately, the Legislative Reference Bureau combines all the laws enacted during the biennium into bound volumes, called "Wisconsin Session Laws". The Revisor of Statutes Bureau incorporates any portions of these laws that make changes in the statutes into the edition of the "Wisconsin Statutes" dated for that legislative biennium. Thus, the edition identified as the *2005-2006 Wisconsin Statutes* includes all statutory changes resulting from laws enacted by the 2005 Legislature.

The Budget Bill. The budget bill is the longest and most complex bill of the session. Because Wisconsin's budget covers a 2-year period from July 1 of one odd-numbered year through June 30 of the next, its development involves a chain of events stretching over almost a year. In the fall of every even-numbered year, state agencies must submit funding requests to the Department of Administration. Their funding requests include estimates of the cost of existing services over the next 2 years and may propose changes they hope are made in their programs. The Department of Administration's state budget office then compiles the data for review by the governor or governor-elect. While developing the budget, the governor may hold a hearing on any department's budget request to get additional input.

State law requires the governor to deliver the budget message to the new legislature on or before the last Tuesday in January, although the legislature may extend the deadline at the governor's request. The state budget report and the biennial executive budget bill or bills accompany the message.

In the legislature, the Joint Committee on Finance holds hearings on the departmental requests and governor's program initiatives. When these are completed, it reports the budget bill to the house of the legislature in which it was introduced. The committee's report takes the form of a substitute amendment. The bill then follows the normal legislative procedure through both houses of the legislature and is submitted for the governor's approval. The governor may sign the budget bill, veto it in its entirety (which would be unlikely), or use partial vetoes, as is usually the case. To meet the state's budgetary cycle, the new budget law should be effective by July 1 of the odd-numbered year, but there sometimes is a delay of several days, or even weeks or months, during which state agencies continue to operate at their levels of appropriation from the preceding budget.

Further Reading. The preceding section has provided a brief description of how a bill becomes a law in Wisconsin. In practice, legislative procedure is more complex than explained here. The feature article in the *1993-1994 Wisconsin Blue Book* contains a more detailed description and uses a case study approach to further illustrate the legislative process. It may be accessed via the *Wisconsin Blue Book* link on the Legislative Reference Bureau's Web site: www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/pubs.

EXECUTIVE VETOES, 1931 – 2005 SESSIONS

Session	Bills Vetoed in Entirety			Bills Partially Vetoed			Partial Vetoes Contained in Biennial Budget Bills	
	Number Vetoed	Vetoes Sustained	Vetoes Overridden	Number Partially Vetoed	All Partial Vetoes Sustained	One or More Partial Vetoes Overridden	Number of Partial Vetoes ¹	Vetoes Overridden
	1931	38	38	—	2	2	—	12
1933	15	15	—	1	1	—	12	0
1935	27	27	—	4	4	—	0	0
1937	10	10	—	1	1	—	0	0
1939	22 ²	22	—	4	4	—	1	0
1941	17	17	—	1	1	—	1	0
1943	39	19	20	1	—	1	0	0
1945	31	26	5	2	1	1	1	0
1947	10	9	1	1	1	—	4	0
1949	17	15	2	2	1	1	0	0
1951	18	18	—	—	—	—	0	0
1953	31	28	3	4 ³	4	—	2	0
1955	38	38	—	—	—	—	0	0
1957	35	34	1	3	3	—	2	0
1959	36	32	4	1	1	—	0	0
1961	70	68	2	3	3	—	2	0
1963	72	68	4	1	1	—	0	0
1965	24	23	1	4	4	—	1	0
1967	18	18	—	5	5	—	0	0
1969	34	33	1	11	11	—	27	0
1971	32	29	3	8	8	—	12	0
1973	13	13	—	18	15	3	38	2
1975	37	31	6	22	18	4	42	5
1977	21	17	4	16	13	3	67	21
1979	19	16	3	9	7	2	45	1
1981	11	9	2	11	10	1	121 ⁴	0
1983	3	3	—	11	10	1	70	6
1985	7	7	—	7	6	1	78	2
1987	38	38	—	20	20	—	290	0
1989	35	35	—	28	28	—	203	0
1991	33	33	—	13	13	—	457	0
1993	8	8	—	24	24	—	78	0
1995	4	4	—	21	21	—	112	0
1997	3	3	—	8	8	—	152	0
1999	5	5	—	9	9	—	255	0
2001	—	—	—	3	3	—	315	0
2003	54	54	—	10	10	—	131	0
2005	47	47	—	2	2	—	139	0

Note: The legislature is not required to act on vetoes. Any veto not acted upon is counted as sustained, including pocket vetoes. "Vetoes sustained" includes the following pocket vetoes: 1937 (5); 1941 (13); 1943 (4); 1951 (14); 1955 (10); 1957 (1); 1973 (1). A "pocket veto" resulted if the governor took no action on a bill after the legislature had adjourned *sine die*. (*Sine die*, from the Latin for "without a day", means the legislature adjourns without setting a date to reconvene.) With this type of adjournment, the legislature concluded all its business for the biennium, and there was no opportunity for it to sustain or override the veto (see Article V, Section 10, *Wisconsin Constitution*). Under current legislative session schedules, in which the legislature usually adjourns on the final day of its existence, just hours before the newly elected legislature is seated, the pocket veto is unlikely.

¹As listed in each veto message by the governor.

²Attorney general ruled veto of 1939 SB-43 was void and it became law (see Vol. 28, *Opinions of the Attorney General*, p. 423).

³1953 AB-141, partially vetoed in two separate sections by separate veto messages, is counted as one.

⁴Attorney general ruled several vetoes "ineffective" because the governor failed to express his objections (see Vol. 70, *Opinions of the Attorney General*, p. 189).

Source: Compiled by Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau from the *Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Wisconsin Legislature* and the *Assembly and Senate Journals*.

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Acts are the laws enacted in bill form by the legislature and signed by the governor or passed over the governor’s veto. The acts are distributed separately as “slip laws”.

Journals are a daily record of the business conducted in each house, but they are not verbatim accounts. The service provides preliminary editions of the journals (published on the morning after the legislative day on yellow paper for senate journals and green paper for assembly journals) and the final corrected editions (printed on white paper and distributed two or three weeks later).

The **Bulletin of Proceedings** contains a numerical listing of all bills and other measures introduced in each house of the legislature and a cumulative record of actions taken on each. It includes a subject index to all measures introduced and to all acts, a list of proposals introduced by each legislator, and a numerical listing of statutory sections affected by acts and enrolled bills. It is issued as needed during the biennial session.

The **Weekly Schedule of Committee Activities** lists the time and place of legislative committee hearings for the coming week and advanced notices for hearings on issues of special interest.

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Representative Robert Turner, of Racine, a Democrat, shares a bipartisan moment with Republican Representative Mark Gundrum, of New Berlin. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

**POLITICAL COMPOSITION OF THE
WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE
1885 – 2007**

Legislative Session ¹	Senate						Assembly							
	D	R	P	S	SD	M ³	Vacant	D	R	P	S	SD	M ⁴	Vacant
1885	13	20	—	—	—	—	—	39	61	—	—	—	—	—
1887	6	25	—	—	—	2	—	30	57	—	—	—	13	—
1889	6	24	—	—	—	3	—	29	71	—	—	—	—	—
1891	19	14	—	—	—	—	—	66	33	—	—	—	1	—
1893	26	7	—	—	—	—	—	56	44	—	—	—	—	—
1895	13	20	—	—	—	—	—	19	81	—	—	—	—	—
1897	4	29	—	—	—	—	—	8	91	—	—	—	1	—
1899	2	31	—	—	—	—	—	19	81	—	—	—	—	—
1901	2	31	—	—	—	—	—	18	82	—	—	—	—	—
1903	3	30	—	—	—	—	—	25	75	—	—	—	—	—
1905	4	28	—	—	1	—	—	11	85	—	—	4	—	—
1907	5	27	—	—	1	—	—	19	76	—	—	5	—	—
1909	4	28	—	—	1	—	—	17	80	—	—	3	—	—
1911	4	27	—	—	2	—	—	29	59	—	—	12	—	—
1913	9	23	—	—	1	—	—	37	57	—	—	6	—	—
1915	11	21	—	—	1	—	—	29	63	—	—	8	—	—
1917	6	24	—	—	3	—	—	14	79	—	7	—	—	—
1919	2	27	—	4	—	—	—	5	79	—	16	—	—	—
1921	2	27	—	4	—	—	—	2	92	—	6	—	—	—
1923	—	30	—	3	—	—	—	1	89	—	10	—	—	—
1925	—	30	—	3	—	—	—	1	92	—	7	—	—	—
1927	—	31	—	2	—	—	—	3	89	—	8	—	—	—
1929	—	31	—	2	—	—	—	6	90	—	3	—	1	—
1931	1	30	—	2	—	—	—	2	89	—	9	—	—	—
1933	9	23	—	1	—	—	—	59	13	24	3	—	1	—
1935	13	6	14	—	—	—	—	35	17	45	3	—	—	—
1937	9	8	16	—	—	—	—	31	21	46	2	—	—	—
1939	6	16	11	—	—	—	—	15	53	32	—	—	—	—
1941	3	24	6	—	—	—	—	15	60	25	—	—	—	—
1943	4	23	6	—	—	—	—	14	73	13	—	—	—	—
1945	6	22	5	—	—	—	—	19	75	6	—	—	—	—
1947	5	27	1	—	—	—	—	11	88	—	—	—	—	1
1949	3	27	—	—	—	3	—	26	74	—	—	—	—	—
1951	7	26	—	—	—	—	—	24	75	—	—	—	—	1
1953	7	26	—	—	—	—	—	25	75	—	—	—	—	—
1955	8	24	—	—	—	1	—	36	64	—	—	—	—	—
1957	10	23	—	—	—	—	—	33	67	—	—	—	—	—
1959	12	20	—	—	—	1	—	55	45	—	—	—	—	—
1961	13	20	—	—	—	—	—	45	55	—	—	—	—	—
1963	11	22	—	—	—	—	—	46	53	—	—	—	—	1
1965	12	20	—	—	—	1	—	52	48	—	—	—	—	—
1967	12	21	—	—	—	—	—	47	53	—	—	—	—	—
1969	10	23	—	—	—	—	—	48	52	—	—	—	—	—
1971	12	20	—	—	—	1	—	67	33	—	—	—	—	—
1973	15	18	—	—	—	—	—	62	37	—	—	—	—	—
1975	18	13	—	—	—	2	—	63	36	—	—	—	—	—
1977	23	10	—	—	—	—	—	66	33	—	—	—	—	—
1979	21	10	—	—	—	2	—	60	39	—	—	—	—	—
1981	19	14	—	—	—	—	—	59	39	—	—	—	—	1
1983	17	14	—	—	—	2	—	59	40	—	—	—	—	—
1985	19	14	—	—	—	—	—	52	47	—	—	—	—	—
1987	19	11	—	—	—	3	—	54	45	—	—	—	—	—
1989	20	13	—	—	—	—	—	56	43	—	—	—	—	—
1991	19	14	—	—	—	—	—	58	41	—	—	—	—	—
1993 ²	15	15	—	—	—	3	—	52	47	—	—	—	—	—
1995 ²	16	17	—	—	—	—	—	48	51	—	—	—	—	—
1997 ²	17	16	—	—	—	—	—	47	52	—	—	—	—	—
1999	17	16	—	—	—	—	—	44	55	—	—	—	—	—
2001	18	15	—	—	—	—	—	43	56	—	—	—	—	—
2003	15	18	—	—	—	—	—	41	58	—	—	—	—	—
2005	14	19	—	—	—	—	—	39	60	—	—	—	—	—
2007	18	15	—	—	—	—	—	47	52	—	—	—	—	—

Note: The number of assembly districts was reduced from 100 to 99 beginning in 1973.
 Key: Democrat (D); Progressive (P); Republican (R); Socialist (S); Social Democrat (SD); Miscellaneous (M).
¹Political composition at inauguration.
²In the 1993, 1995, and 1997 Legislatures, majority control of the senate shifted during the session. On 4/20/93, vacancies were filled resulting in a total of 16 Democrats and 17 Republicans; on 6/16/96, there were 17 Democrats and 16 Republicans; and on 4/19/98, there were 16 Democrats and 17 Republicans.
³Miscellaneous = one Independent and one People's (1887); one Independent and 2 Union Labor (1889).
⁴Miscellaneous = 3 Independent, 4 Independent Democrat, and 6 People's (1887); one Union Labor (1891); one Fusion (1897); one Independent (1929); one Independent Republican (1933).
 Sources: Pre-1943 data is taken from the Secretary of State, *Officers of Wisconsin: U.S., State, Judicial, Congressional, Legislative and County Officers*, 1943 and earlier editions, and the *Wisconsin Blue Book*, various editions. Later data compiled from Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau sources.



The Speaker and the Minority Leader of the Assembly are the two highest ranking legislators within their respective parties. Speaker Mike Huebsch, left, and Representative Jim Kreuser fill those roles in the 2007 Assembly. (Brent Nicastro, Legislative Photographer)

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STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE 2007 WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

All standing committees of the 2007 Wisconsin Legislature are described in this section. The standing committees of the senate are created by the Committee on Senate Organization while standing committees of the assembly are enumerated in Assembly Rule 9. In the case of each standing committee listed below, the names of committee officers are followed by those of the majority party and minority party, separated by a semicolon. An * indicates the ranking minority member.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

- Administrative Rules** — JAUCH, *chairperson*; LEHMAN, KREITLOW; GROTHMAN*, LEIBHAM.
- Agriculture and Higher Education** — VINEHOUT, *chairperson*; LASSA, PLALE; HARSDDORF*, KAPANKE.
- Audit** — SULLIVAN, *chairperson*; LASSA, DECKER; A. LASEE*, COWLES.
- Campaign Finance Reform, Rural Issues and Information Technology** — KREITLOW, *chairperson*; ERPENBACH, LASSA; KANAVAS*, KAPANKE.
- Commerce, Utilities and Rail** — PLALE, *chairperson*; BRESKE, WIRCH, HANSEN; COWLES*, HARSDDORF, KEDZIE.
- Economic Development, Job Creation, Family Prosperity and Housing** — LASSA, *chairperson*; LEHMAN, VINEHOUT, KREITLOW; KANAVAS*, DARLING, ROESSLER.
- Education** — LEHMAN, *chairperson*; ERPENBACH, HANSEN, KREITLOW; OLSEN*, GROTHMAN, LAZICH.
- Environment and Natural Resources** — MILLER, *chairperson*; JAUCH, WIRCH; KEDZIE*, SCHULTZ.
- Ethics Reform and Government Operations** — RISSER, *chairperson*; MILLER, KREITLOW; ELLIS*, LEIBHAM.
- Finance** — DECKER, *chairperson*; HANSEN, JAUCH, TAYLOR, MILLER, LEHMAN; DARLING*, OLSEN.
- Health and Human Services** — ERPENBACH, *chairperson*; VINEHOUT, CARPENTER, SULLIVAN; ROESSLER*, LAZICH, KANAVAS.
- Judiciary and Corrections** — TAYLOR, *chairperson*; SULLIVAN, VINEHOUT; LAZICH*, GROTHMAN.
- Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs** — COGGS, *chairperson*; WIRCH, LEHMAN; GROTHMAN*, A. LASEE.
- Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care and Privacy** — CARPENTER, *chairperson*; COGGS, KREITLOW; SCHULTZ*, COWLES.
- Senate Organization** — ROBSON, *chairperson*; RISSER, HANSEN; S. FITZGERALD*, LEIBHAM.
- Small Business, Emergency Preparedness, Workforce Development, Technical Colleges and Consumer Protection** — WIRCH, *chairperson*; CARPENTER, PLALE; KEDZIE*, ROESSLER.
- Transportation, Tourism and Insurance** — BRESKE, *chairperson*; PLALE, ERPENBACH, HANSEN; KAPANKE*, SCHULTZ, LEIBHAM.
- Veterans and Military Affairs, Biotechnology and Financial Institutions** — SULLIVAN, *chairperson*; COGGS, CARPENTER; LEIBHAM*, KANAVAS.

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEES

- Administrative Rules** — LEMAHIEU, *chairperson*; ZIPPERER, *vice chairperson*; FRISKE; BLACK*, NELSON.
- Aging and Long-Term Care** — TOWNSEND, *chairperson*; HINES, *vice chairperson*; OWENS, LEMAHIEU, STRACHOTA, PETERSEN; KRUSICK*, GRONEMUS, HINTZ, POPE-ROBERTS, HIXSON.
- Agriculture** — A. OTT, *chairperson*; NERISON, *vice chairperson*; M. WILLIAMS, MURSAU, MURTHA, TAUCHEN; GRONEMUS*, MOLEPSKE, JORGENSEN, VRUWINK, GARTHWAITE.

Assembly Organization — HUEBSCH, *chairperson*; J. FITZGERALD, *vice chairperson*; GOTTLIEB, HONADEL, GUNDRUM; KREUSER*, RICHARDS, TURNER.

Audit — JESKEWITZ, *chairperson*; RHOADES, *vice chairperson*; KERKMAN; CULLEN*, PARISI.

Biofuels and Sustainable Energy — HAHN, *chairperson*; WOOD, *vice chairperson*; ALBERS, DAVIS, TAUCHEN; BOYLE*, GRONEMUS, HUBLER, JORGENSEN.

Children and Family Law — OWENS, *chairperson*; PRIDEMORE, *vice chairperson*; ALBERS, JESKEWITZ, KLEEFISCH; GRIGSBY*, SEIDEL, BERCEAU.

Colleges and Universities — NASS, *chairperson*; BALLWEG, *vice chairperson*; JESKEWITZ, ZIPPERER, GOTTLIEB, KLEEFISCH; SHILLING*, SMITH, BLACK, HINTZ.

Consumer Protection and Personal Privacy — LOTHIAN, *chairperson*; DAVIS, *vice chairperson*; TOWNSEND, KERKMAN, MURSAU; CULLEN*, KRUSICK, SINICKI, JORGENSEN.

Corrections and the Courts — BIES, *chairperson*; MONTGOMERY, *vice chairperson*; KAUFERT, OWENS, GUNDRUM, LEMAHIEU; PARISI*, POCAN, WASSERMAN, POPE-ROBERTS, SEIDEL.

Criminal Justice — KLEEFISCH, *chairperson*; FRISKE, *vice chairperson*; ALBERS, OWENS, VUKMIR, KRAMER; TURNER*, STASKUNAS, KESSLER, GRIGSBY, HRAYCHUCK.

Education — DAVIS, *chairperson*; NEWCOMER, *vice chairperson*; NASS, TOWNSEND, VUKMIR, NYGREN; POPE-ROBERTS*, MASON, VAN AKKEREN, HIXSON.

Education Reform — PRIDEMORE, *chairperson*; NASS, *vice chairperson*; VUKMIR, WOOD, J. OTT; POPE-ROBERTS*, KRUSICK, A. WILLIAMS.

Elections and Constitutional Law — ALBERS, *chairperson*; GUNDRUM, *vice chairperson*; MONTGOMERY, KRAMER, J. OTT; KESSLER*, A. WILLIAMS, MOLEPSKE.

Employment Relations — HUEBSCH (speaker), *chairperson*; J. FITZGERALD (majority leader), RHOADES (cochair, Joint Committee on Finance), KREUSER* (minority leader).

Energy and Utilities — MONTGOMERY, *chairperson*; PETERSEN, *vice chairperson*; HAHN, HONADEL, DAVIS, NERISON; ZEPNICK*, STASKUNAS, STEINBRINK, SOLETSKI.



Legislative work can take many forms. Representative Tom Nelson, of Kaukauna, held a winter forum in 2007 on the issue of Medical Assistance. In attendance were Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and Representative Donna Seidel, of Wausau. (Brent Nicastro, Legislative Photographer)



Legislators often testify at committee hearings on behalf of bills they have authored or feel strongly about. Representative Thomas Lothian (left) and Senator Neal Kedzie testified on Assembly Bill 28, a bill creating a pension tax credit, before the Assembly Ways and Means Committee on March 7, 2007. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Finance — RHOADES, *chairperson*; MEYER, *vice chairperson*; STONE, KESTELL, SUDER; POCAN*, COLÓN.

Financial Institutions — NEWCOMER, *chairperson*; KAUFERT, *vice chairperson*; WIECKERT, TOWNSEND, KRAMER, ROTH; RICHARDS*, ZEPNICK, SMITH, NELSON, HIXSON.

Forestry — FRISKE, *chairperson*; MURSAU, *vice chairperson*; A. OTT, M. WILLIAMS; HUBLER*, BOYLE, SHERMAN.

Health and Health Care Reform — VUKMIR, *chairperson*; MOULTON, *vice chairperson*; F. LASEE, WIECKERT, STRACHOTA, NEWCOMER, NYGREN, ZIPPERER; WASSERMAN*, SHILLING, VRUWINK, BENEDICT, SEIDEL.

Homeland Security and State Preparedness — BALLWEG, *chairperson*; KERKMAN, *vice chairperson*; MUSSER, HINES, PETERSEN; SINICKI*, SCHNEIDER, ZIEGELBAUER, BENEDICT.

Housing — WIECKERT, *chairperson*; ROTH, *vice chairperson*; TOWNSEND, HONADEL; HEBL*, YOUNG, A. WILLIAMS.

Insurance — F. LASEE, *chairperson*; NYGREN, *vice chairperson*; MONTGOMERY, VAN ROY, BALLWEG, MOULTON, KRAMER; CULLEN*, BERCEAU, ZIEGELBAUER, PARISI, HILGENBERG.

Jobs and the Economy — STRACHOTA, *chairperson*; HONADEL, *vice chairperson*; FRISKE, KERKMAN, NYGREN, ROTH; SHERIDAN*, FIELDS, TOLES, MASON.

Judiciary and Ethics — GUNDRUM, *chairperson*; KRAMER, *vice chairperson*; FRISKE, KERKMAN, KLEEFISCH, PRIDEMORE; STASKUNAS*, HINTZ, TURNER, KESSLER.

Labor and Industry — HONADEL, *chairperson*; GOTTLIEB, *vice chairperson*; NASS, WIECKERT, NEWCOMER, MURTHA; NELSON*, SHERIDAN, VAN AKKEREN.

Natural Resources — GUNDERSON, *chairperson*; J. OTT, *vice chairperson*; BIES, LEMAHIEU, M. WILLIAMS, MOULTON, NERISON, MURSAU; BLACK*, MOLEPSKE, STEINBRINK, HRAYCHUCK, HEBL, MASON.



Although the legislature often deals with broad issues of general interest, legislators also work closely with local officials on matters of local concern. On January 24, 2007, Kurt Muchow (left) and Dennis Weis (center left) testified on behalf of the Village of Edgar before the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. Also appearing were Senator Pat Kreitlow (center right) and Representative Scott Suder (right), who introduced the bill being discussed, which authorized Edgar to establish a tax incremental district. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Property Rights — M. WILLIAMS, *chairperson*; ALBERS, *vice chairperson*; MUSSER, GUNDERSON; MOLEPSKE*, GRONEMUS.

Public Health — HINES, *chairperson*; VUKMIR, *vice chairperson*; BALLWEG, MOULTON, NERISON; BENEDICT*, WASSERMAN, SCHNEIDER, BLACK.

Rules — J. FITZGERALD, *chairperson*; HUEBSCH, *vice chairperson*; GOTTLIEB, GUNDRUM, HONADEL, STRACHOTA, M. WILLIAMS; KREUSER*, RICHARDS, STASKUNAS, TRAVIS, GRIGSBY.

Rural Affairs — NERISON, *chairperson*; TAUCHEN, *vice chairperson*; HAHN, PETROWSKI, WOOD; SCHNEIDER*, SMITH, JORGENSEN, GARTHWAITE.

Rural Economic Development — MURSAU, *chairperson*; A. OTT, *vice chairperson*; M. WILLIAMS, WOOD, MURTHA; NELSON*, GARTHWAITE, HILGENBERG, HIXSON (eff. 3/20/07).

Small Business — MOULTON, *chairperson*; MURTHA, *vice chairperson*; TOWNSEND, VAN ROY, BALLWEG; FIELDS*, HILGENBERG, HEBL, SOLETSKI.

State Affairs — VAN ROY, *chairperson*; KLEEFISCH, *vice chairperson*; MUSSER, PETROWSKI, NEWCOMER, TAUCHEN; YOUNG*, TOLES, BENEDICT, SINICKI.

Tourism, Recreation and State Properties — KAUFERT, *chairperson*; M. WILLIAMS, *vice chairperson*; GUNDERSON, BIES, HINES, VAN ROY; VAN AKKEREN*, SOLETSKI, HRAYCHUCK, YOUNG, SCHNEIDER (eff. 3/20/07).

Transportation — PETROWSKI, *chairperson*; BIES, *vice chairperson*; A. OTT, HAHN, GOTTLIEB, VAN ROY, DAVIS; STEINBRINK*, VRUWINK, SHERIDAN, SHERMAN, GARTHWAITE.

Urban and Local Affairs — GOTTLIEB, *chairperson*; LEMAHIEU, *vice chairperson*; GUNDERSON, LOTHIAN, PRIDEMORE; BERCEAU*, TURNER, HINTZ, PARISI.

Veterans and Military Affairs — MUSSER, *chairperson*; TOWNSEND, *vice chairperson*; PETROWSKI, BIES, PETERSEN; SHERMAN*, HUBLER, BOYLE, TURNER.

Ways and Means — KERKMAN, *chairperson*; LOTHIAN, *vice chairperson*; HAHN, JESKEWITZ, WOOD, PRIDEMORE, STRACHOTA; ZIEGELBAUER*, STEINBRINK, FIELDS, HEBL, TOLES, KESSLER.

Workforce Development — WOOD, *chairperson*; STRACHOTA, *vice chairperson*; LOTHIAN, PRIDEMORE, J. OTT, ROTH, ZIPPERER; TOLES*, FIELDS, GRIGSBY, SHILLING, ZEPNICK, SINICKI.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

Joint committees and commissions are created by statute and include members from both houses. Three joint committees include nonlegislative members. Names of committee officers are followed by those of the majority and minority party, separated by a semicolon. The ranking minority member is indicated by an *. Commissions also include gubernatorial appointees and, in 2 cases, the governor. All telephone numbers that do not include an area code are Madison numbers, area code 608.

Joint Committee for Review of ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Members: SENATOR JAUCH, REPRESENTATIVE LEMAHIEU, *cochairpersons*; SENATORS LEHMAN, KREITLOW; GROTHMAN*, LEIBHAM; REPRESENTATIVES ZIPPERER, FRISKE; BLACK*, NELSON.

Mailing Addresses: Senator Jauch, Room 118 South, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Representative LeMahieu, Room 17 North, State Capitol, P.O. Box 8952, Madison 53708-8952.

Telephones: Senator Jauch, 266-3510; Representative LeMahieu, 266-9175.

E-mail: sen.jauch@legis.wisconsin.gov; rep.lemahieu@legis.wisconsin.gov

Statutory References: Sections 13.56, 227.19, 227.24, 227.26, 227.40 (5), and 806.04 (11).

Agency Responsibility: The Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules must review proposed rules when standing committees object to them. It also may suspend rules that have been promulgated; suspend or extend the effective period of all or part of emergency rules; and order an agency to put unwritten policies in rule form.

When a standing committee objects to a proposed rule or portion of a rule, it must be referred to the joint committee. The joint committee then has 30 days to review the rule, but that period may be extended for an additional 30 days. The joint committee may uphold or reverse the standing committee's action. If it concurs with the objection, it introduces bills concurrently in both houses to prevent promulgation of the rule. If either bill is enacted, the agency may not adopt the rule unless specifically authorized to do so by subsequent legislative action. If the joint committee disagrees with the objection, it may overrule the standing committee and allow the agency to adopt the rule or it may request the agency to modify the rule.

The joint committee may suspend a rule after holding a public hearing, but suspension must be based on one or more of the following reasons: absence of statutory authority; an emergency related to public health or welfare; failure to comply with legislative intent; conflict with existing state law; a change in circumstances since passage of the law that authorized the rule; or a rule that is arbitrary or capricious or imposes undue hardship. Within 30 days following the suspension, the committee must introduce bills concurrently in both houses to repeal the suspended rule. If either bill is enacted, the rule is repealed and the agency may not promulgate it again unless authorized by the legislature. If both bills fail to pass, the rule remains in effect and may not be suspended again.

The joint committee receives notice of any action in the circuit court of Dane County for declaratory judgments about the validity of a rule and may intervene in the action with the consent of the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization.

Organization: The joint committee consists of 5 senators and 5 representatives, and the membership from each house must include representatives of both the majority and minority parties.

History: The Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules was one of the first of its kind in the country, and it has served as a model widely copied by other states. Chapter 221, Laws of 1955, revised administrative rules procedures and created the committee with "advisory powers only". It could investigate complaints about rules and recommend changes to rule-making agencies but could not directly affect the rule-making process. In 1966, the committee received authority to suspend a rule based on testimony at a public hearing. With enactment of Chapter 34, Laws of 1979, the joint committee acquired the power to review proposed rules based on the objections of a legislative standing committee. Further modifications occurred when 1985 Wis-

consin Act 182 authorized the joint committee to extend its 30-day review period and allowed it to negotiate with agencies to modify existing rules.



Senators Decker and Ellis meet in the Senate Parlor. Senators often retreat to the parlor, off of the Senate Chamber, where private conversation is permitted. (Brent Nicastro, Legislative Photographer)

State of Wisconsin BUILDING COMMISSION

Members: GOVERNOR DOYLE, *chairperson*; SENATORS RISSE, PLALE; KANAVAS; REPRESENTATIVES KAUFERT, MONTGOMERY; SHILLING; TERRY MCGUIRE (citizen member appointed by governor). Nonvoting advisory members from Department of Administration: MICHAEL MORGAN (departmental secretary), ADEL TABRIZI (chief engineer), DAVID HALEY (chief architect).

Secretary: ROBERT G. CRAMER, *administrator*, Division of Facilities Development, Department of Administration.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7866, Madison 53707-7866.

Location: 101 East Wilson Street, 7th Floor, Madison.

Telephone: 266-1855.

Fax: 267-2710.

Total Budget 2005-07: \$51,320,700*.

*Total budget includes bond revenues, building trust fund expenditures, and debt service payments for state office buildings, the State Capitol, and the Executive Residence.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.48.

Agency Responsibility: The State of Wisconsin Building Commission coordinates the state building program and establishes long-range plans for development of the state's physical plant. The commission determines the projects to be incorporated into the long-range program and recommends a biennial building program to the legislature, including the amount to be appropriated in the biennial budget. It oversees all state construction, except highway development. In addition, the commission may authorize expenditures from the State Building Trust Fund for construction, remodeling, maintenance, and planning of future development. The commission is the only state body that can authorize the contracting of state debt. All transactions for the sale of instruments that result in a state debt liability must be approved by official resolution of the commission.

Organization: The 11-member commission includes 6 legislators. Both the majority and minority parties in each house must be represented, and one legislator from each house must also be a member of the State Supported Programs Study and Advisory Committee. The governor serves as chairperson; one citizen member serves at the pleasure of the governor. Three officials from the Department of Administration – the secretary, the head of the engineering function, and the ranking architect – serve as nonvoting, advisory members.

History: The State of Wisconsin Building Commission was created by Chapter 563, Laws of 1949, to establish a long-range public building program. Another 1949 law (Chapter 604) gave the commission authority to organize the quasi-public Wisconsin State Public Building Corporation. This legal device, familiarly known as a “dummy building corporation”, was used to finance public buildings to house state agencies because the Wisconsin Constitution prevented direct borrowing by the state for such projects. The quasi-public corporation was first used in 1925, when the University Building Corporation was developed to permit construction of revenue-producing facilities on the Madison campus, including dormitories and athletic buildings. The State Agencies Building Corporation, a similar entity, was formed in 1958 (Chapter 593, Laws of 1957) to finance nonrevenue-producing buildings, such as classroom facilities, and Chapter 267, Laws of 1961, extended the corporation's authority to the financing of public welfare buildings.

In 1969, voters amended the constitution, and the legislature passed Chapter 259, which provided for direct state borrowing and ended the use of the various building corporations. The law enlarged the powers of the commission to finance capital facilities for all state agencies.

A separate State Bond Board, including 4 members of the Building Commission, was established by Chapter 259 to supervise the contracting of state debt. Chapter 90, Laws of 1973, abolished the bond board and returned its duties and responsibilities to the Building Commission.

Joint Review Committee on CRIMINAL PENALTIES

Members: SENATOR TAYLOR, vacancy *cochairpersons*; REPRESENTATIVE STASKUNAS, vacancy; J.B. VAN HOLLEN (attorney general); MATTHEW J. FRANK (secretary of corrections); NICHOLAS CHIARKAS (state public defender); DENNIS D. CONWAY, ROBERT PEKOWSKI (reserve judges appointed by supreme court); BRADLEY GEHRING, ALLAN KEHL (public members appointed by governor).

Mailing Address: Senator Taylor, Room 415 South, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882.

Telephone: Senator Taylor, 266-5810.

E-mail: sen.taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov

Statutory Reference: Section 13.525.

Agency Responsibility: The Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties, created by 2001 Wisconsin Act 109, reviews any bill that creates a new crime or revises a penalty for an existing crime when requested to do so by a chairperson of a standing committee in the house of origin to which the bill was referred. The presiding officer in the house of origin may also request a report from the joint committee if the bill is not referred to a standing committee.

Committee reports on bills submitted for its review concern the costs or savings to public agencies; the consistency of proposed penalties with existing penalties; whether alternative language is needed to conform the proposed penalties to existing penalties; and whether any acts prohibited by the bill are already prohibited under existing law.

Once a report is requested for a bill, a standing committee may not vote on the bill and the house of origin may not pass the bill before the joint committee submits its report or before the 30th day after the request is made, whichever is earlier.

Organization: Legislative members include one majority and one minority party member from each house. One reserve judge must reside somewhere within judicial administrative districts one through 5, and the other in districts 6 through 10. Public members must include an individual with law enforcement experience and one who is an elected county official.



Legislative service provides members with a unique opportunity to shape public policy and discuss issues with colleagues. Representatives Jeff Smith (left), of Pewaukee, and Rich Zipperer, of Eau Claire, entered the legislative world in 2007. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Joint Committee on EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

Members: SENATOR RISSER (senate president), REPRESENTATIVE HUEBSCH (assembly speaker), *cochairpersons*; SENATORS ROBSON (majority leader), S. FITZGERALD (minority leader); REPRESENTATIVES J. FITZGERALD (majority leader), KREUSER (minority leader); SENATOR DECKER, REPRESENTATIVE RHOADES (joint finance committee *cochairpersons*).

Mailing Address: Legislative Council Staff, P.O. Box 2536, Madison 53701-2536.

Location: 1 East Main Street, Suite 401, Madison.

Telephone: 266-1304.

Statutory References: Sections 13.111, 20.923, and 230.12; Chapter 111, Subchapter V.

Agency Responsibility: The Joint Committee on Employment Relations approves all changes to the collective bargaining agreements that cover state employees represented by unions and the compensation plans for nonrepresented state employees. These plans and agreements include pay adjustments; fringe benefits; performance awards; pay equity adjustments; and other items related to wages, hours, and conditions of employment. The committee also approves the assignment of unclassified positions to the executive salary group ranges.

In the case of unionized employees, the Office of State Employment Relations submits tentative agreements negotiated between it and certified labor organizations to the committee. If the committee disapproves an agreement, it is returned to the bargaining parties for renegotiation.

The Office of State Employment Relations also submits the compensation plans for nonrepresented employees to the committee. One plan covers all nonrepresented classified employees and certain officials outside the classified service, including legislators, justices of the supreme court, court of appeals judges, circuit court judges, constitutional officers, district attorneys, heads of executive agencies, division administrators, and others designated by law. The faculty and academic staff of the UW System are covered by a separate pay plan, which is based on recommendations made by the UW Board of Regents.

After public hearings on the nonrepresented employee plans, the committee may modify the office's recommendations, but the committee's modifications are subject to the governor's veto. A veto may be overridden by the vote of 6 committee members.

When the committee approves an agreement for unionized employees, it introduces those portions requiring legislative approval in bill form and recommends passage without change. If the legislature fails to adopt the bill, the agreement is returned to the bargaining parties for renegotiation.

Organization: The committee, which was established by Chapter 270, Laws of 1971, is a permanent joint legislative committee comprised of 8 *ex officio* members. It is assisted in its work by the Legislative Council Staff and the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

Joint Committee on FINANCE

Members: SENATOR DECKER, REPRESENTATIVE RHOADES, *cochairpersons*; SENATORS HANSEN, JAUCH, TAYLOR, MILLER, LEHMAN; DARLING*, OLSEN; REPRESENTATIVES MEYER, STONE, KESTELL, SUDER, VOS; POCAN*, COLÓN.

Mailing Addresses: Senator Decker, Room 122 South, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Representative Rhoades, Room 309 East, State Capitol, P.O. Box 8953, Madison 53708-8953.

Telephones: Senator Decker, 266-2502; Representative Rhoades, 266-1526.

E-mail: sen.decker@legis.wisconsin.gov; rep.rhoades@legis.wisconsin.gov

Statutory References: Sections 13.09-13.11, 16.505, 16.515, and 20.865 (4).

Agency Responsibility: The Joint Committee on Finance examines all legislation that deals with state income and spending. It also gives final approval to a wide variety of state payments



Because of its central role in the budget process, the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) is one of the most important committees in the legislature.

and assessments. Any bill introduced in the legislature that appropriates money, provides for revenue, or relates to taxation must be referred to the joint committee.

The joint committee introduces the biennial budget as recommended by the governor. After holding a series of public hearings and executive sessions, it submits its own version of the budget as a substitute amendment to the governor's budget bill for consideration by the legislature.

At regularly scheduled quarterly meetings, the joint committee considers agency requests to adjust their budgets. It may approve a request for emergency funds if it finds that the legislature has authorized the activities for which the appropriation is sought. It may also transfer funds between existing appropriations and change the number of positions authorized to an agency in the budget process.

When required, the joint committee introduces legislation to pay claims against the state, resolve shortages in funds, and restore capital reserve funds of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority to the required level. As an emergency measure, it may reduce certain state agency appropriations when there is a decrease in state revenues.

The joint committee gives final approval for a variety of fiscal operations including: disposition of federal block grant funds and private gifts, grants, and bequests; changes in supplemental security income payment levels if approved by the governor; plans to deal with shortfalls in state agency fund accounts; disposition of oil overcharge funds; and expenditure plans for federal low-income assistance funds. In addition, the committee may inquire into the operations of any state agency for the purpose of improving agency efficiency.

Organization: The committee is a joint standing committee composed of the 8 senators on the Senate Finance Committee and the 8 representatives on the Assembly Finance Committee. It generally includes members of the majority and minority party in each house. Cochairpersons of the joint committee are appointed in the same manner as are standing committees of their respective houses.

History: The use of a joint standing committee to consider appropriation bills dates back to 1857 when the legislature created the Joint Committee on Claims. In 1911 (Chapter 6), the Joint Committee on Finance replaced the claims committee and was given the responsibility to consider all bills related to revenue and taxation. Chapter 609, Laws of 1915, authorized the governor, secretary of state, and state treasurer to approve emergency appropriations when the legislature was not in session to permit departments with insufficient funds to carry out their normal duties. Chap-



In spring of 2007, JCF held numerous meetings while considering the 2007-2009 Biennial Budget Bill.

(Brent Nicastro, Legislative Photographer)

ter 97, Laws of 1929, transferred this function to a new Emergency Board, which consisted of the governor and the cochairpersons of the joint finance committee. The power to approve supplemental appropriations, transfer funds between appropriations, and handle other interim fiscal matters was given to a joint legislative committee called the Board on Government Operations (BOGO) by Chapter 228, Laws of 1959. BOGO's functions were transferred to the Joint Committee on Finance by Chapter 39, Laws of 1975.

Joint Committee on INFORMATION POLICY AND TECHNOLOGY

Members: SENATORS KRETILOW, JAUCH, MILLER, 2 vacancies; 5 vacancies (representatives).

Statutory Reference: Section 13.58.

Agency Responsibility: The Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology reviews information management practices of state and local units of government to ensure economic and efficient service, maintain data security and integrity, and protect the privacy of individuals who are subjects of the databases. It studies the effects of proposals by the state to expand existing information technology or implement new technologies. With concurrence of the Joint Committee on Finance, it may direct the Department of Administration to report on any information technology system project that could cost \$1 million or more in the current or succeeding biennium. The committee may direct the Department of Administration to prepare reports or conduct studies and may make recommendations to the governor, the legislature, state agencies, or local governments based on this information. The committee is composed of 3 majority and 2 minority party members from each house of the legislature. It was created by 1991 Wisconsin Act 317 and its membership was revised by 1999 Wisconsin Act 29.

Joint LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Members: SENATOR SULLIVAN, REPRESENTATIVE JESKEWITZ, *cochairpersons*; SENATOR DECKER, REPRESENTATIVE RHOADES (joint finance committee cochairpersons); SENATORS LASSA; A. LASEE*, COWLES; REPRESENTATIVES KERKMAN; CULLEN*, PARISI.

Mailing Addresses: Senator Sullivan, Room 15 South, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Representative Jeskewitz, Room 314 North, State Capitol, P.O. Box 8952, Madison 53708-8952.

Telephones: Senator Sullivan, 266-2512; Representative Jeskewitz, 266-3796.

E-mail: sen.sullivan@legis.wisconsin.gov; rep.jeskewitz@legis.wisconsin.gov

Statutory Reference: Section 13.53.

Agency Responsibility: The Joint Legislative Audit Committee, which was created by Chapter 224, Laws of 1975, advises the Legislative Audit Bureau, subject to general supervision of the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization. Its members include the cochairpersons of the Joint Committee on Finance, plus 2 majority and 2 minority party members from each house of the legislature. The committee evaluates candidates for the office of state auditor and makes recommendations to the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization, which selects the auditor.

The committee may direct the state auditor to undertake specific audits and review requests for special audits from individual legislators or standing committees, but no legislator or standing committee may interfere with the auditor in the conduct of an audit.

The committee reviews each report of the Legislative Audit Bureau and then confers with the state auditor, other legislative committees, and the audited agencies on the report's findings. It may propose corrective action and direct that followup reports be submitted to it.

The committee may hold hearings on audit reports, ask the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization to investigate any matter within the scope of the audit, and request investigation of any matter relative to the fiscal and performance responsibilities of a state agency. If an audit report cites financial deficiencies, the head of the agency must report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee on remedial actions taken. Should the agency head fail to report, the committee may refer the matter to the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization and the appropriate standing committees.

When the committee determines that legislative action is needed, it may refer the necessary information to the legislature or a standing committee. It can also request information from a committee on action taken or seek advice of a standing committee on program portions of an audit. The committee may introduce legislation to address issues covered in audit reports.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Members: SENATOR RISSER (senate president), REPRESENTATIVE WIECKERT (designated by assembly speaker), *cochairpersons*; SENATORS CARPENTER (president pro tempore), ROBSON (majority leader), S. FITZGERALD (minority leader), DECKER (cochairperson, Joint Committee on Finance), DARLING (ranking minority member, Joint Committee on Finance), MILLER, BRESKE, COGGS, A. LASEE, HARSDORF; REPRESENTATIVES HUEBSCH (assembly speaker), GOTTLIEB (speaker pro tempore), J. FITZGERALD (majority leader), KREUSER (minority leader), RHOADES (cochairperson, Joint Committee on Finance), POCAN (ranking minority member, Joint Committee on Finance), BALLWEG, KAUFERT, BERCEAU, SCHNEIDER. (Members designated by title serve *ex officio*.)

Director of Legislative Council Staff: TERRY C. ANDERSON, terry.anderson@legis.wisconsin.gov

Deputy Director: LAURA D. ROSE, laura.rose@legis.wisconsin.gov

Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse: RONALD SKLANSKY, *director*, ronald.sklansky@legis.wisconsin.gov; RICHARD SWEET, *assistant director*, richard.sweet@legis.wisconsin.gov

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2536, Madison 53701-2536.

Location: 1 East Main Street, Suite 401, Madison.

Telephone: 266-1304.

Fax: 266-3830.

Internet Address: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc>

Publications: General Report of the Joint Legislative Council to the Legislature; State Agency Staff Members With Responsibilities Related to the Legislature; Wisconsin Legislator Briefing Book; Directory of Joint Legislative Council Committees; rules clearinghouse reports; staff briefs; information memoranda on substantive issues considered by council committees; staff memoranda; amendment and act memoranda.

Number of Employees: 35.17.

Total Budget 2005-07: \$6,901,600.

Statutory References: Sections 13.81-13.83, 13.91, and 227.15.

Agency Responsibility: The Joint Legislative Council creates special committees made up of legislators and interested citizens to study various problems of state and local government. Study topics are selected from requests presented to the council by law, joint resolution, individual legislators, and others. After research and public hearings, the study committees draft proposals and submit them to the council, which must approve those drafts it wants introduced in the legislature as council bills.

The council is assisted in its work by the Legislative Council staff, a bureau created in Section 13.91, Wisconsin Statutes. The staff provides legal counsel and scientific and policy research assistance to all of the legislature's substantive standing committees and joint statutory committees (except the Joint Committee on Finance) and assists individual legislators on request. The staff operates the rules clearinghouse to review proposed administrative rules and assists standing



The leaders of the two parties confer about how the work of the legislature will proceed. Speaker Mike Huebsch, of West Salem, left, Assistant Minority Leader Jon Richards, of Milwaukee, center, and Minority Leader Jim Kreuser, of Kenosha, discuss the flow of upcoming legislation. (Brent Nicastro, Legislative Photographer)

committees in their oversight of rulemaking. The staff also assists the legislature in identifying and responding to issues relating to the Wisconsin Retirement System.

By law, the Legislative Council staff must be “strictly nonpartisan” and must observe the confidential nature of the research and drafting requests received by it. The law requires that state agencies and local governmental units cooperate fully with the council staff in its carrying out of its statutory duties.

Organization: The council consists of 22 legislators. The majority of them serve *ex officio*, and the remainder are appointed as are members of standing committees. The president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly serve as cochairpersons of the council, but each may designate another member to assume that office. The council operates two permanent statutory committees and various special committees appointed to study selected subjects. The Legislative Council staff director is appointed from outside the classified service by the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization, and the director makes staff appointments from outside the service.

History: Chapter 444, Laws of 1947, created the council to conduct interim studies on subjects affecting the general welfare of the state. The first council was organized later that year with 12 members. In 1967, the council began to appoint staff members to provide legal counsel and technical assistance to legislative standing committees. The 1979 executive budget (Chapter 34) assigned the administrative rules clearinghouse function to the council. 1993 Wisconsin Act 52 made a number of reorganizational changes. The act renamed the council the Joint Legislative Council and designated the president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly (or their designees) cochairpersons. Under Act 52, the council was directed to reorganize at the beginning of the biennial session, instead of May 1 of the odd-numbered year, and its support agency was officially named the Legislative Council Staff. 2005 Wisconsin Act 316 transferred the functions of the retirement research director to the council staff, making the staff responsible for supporting the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems and the legislature regarding legislation involving the Wisconsin Retirement System.

PERMANENT STATUTORY COMMITTEES

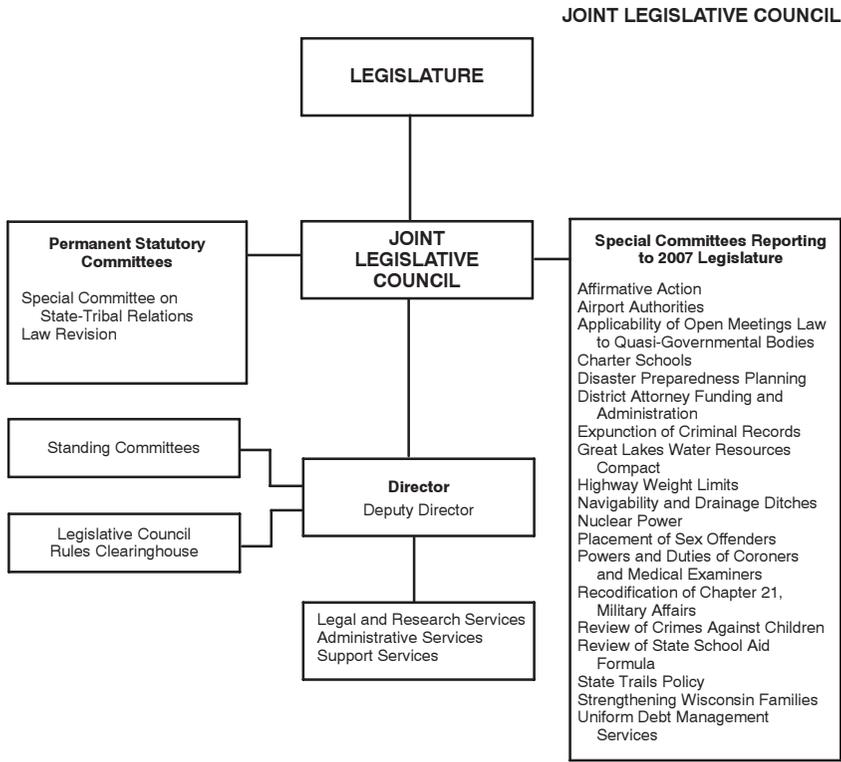
Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations

Members: REPRESENTATIVE MUSSER, *chairperson*; SENATORS COGGS, S. FITZGERALD, WIRCH; REPRESENTATIVES BIES, BOYLE, SHERMAN; DONNA LYNK (Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians), LOUIS TAYLOR (Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians), DEE ANN MAYO (Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians), MARK MONTANO (Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas), HOWARD J. BICHLER (St. Croix Band of Chippewa Indians), JON F. GREENDEER (Ho-Chunk Nation), KEN FISH (Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin), VINCE DELA ROSA (Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin), JOHN ALLOWAY (Forest County Potawatomi Community), DOUGLAS HUCK (Stockbridge-Munsee Community, Mohican Nation).

The Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations is appointed by the Joint Legislative Council each biennium to study issues related to American Indians and the Indian tribes and bands in this state and develop specific recommendations and legislative proposals relating to such issues. Legislative membership includes not fewer than 6 nor more than 12 members with at least one member of the majority and the minority party from each house. The council appoints no fewer than 6 and no more than 11 members from names submitted by federally recognized Wisconsin Indian tribes or bands or the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council. The council may not appoint more than one member recommended by any one tribe or band or the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council. Chapter 39, Laws of 1975, created the committee as the American Indian Study Committee, and 1999 Wisconsin Act 60 renamed it and revised the membership. The committee’s composition and duties are prescribed in Section 13.83 (3) of the statutes.

.. Technical Advisory Committee

Members: JIM WEBER (Department of Health and Family Services), TOM BELLAVIA (Department of Justice), MICHAEL LUTZ (Department of Natural Resources), J.P. LEARY (Department of Public Instruction), TOM OURADA (Department of Revenue), GWEN CARR (Department of Transportation), RACHELLE ASHLEY (Department of Workforce Development).



Under Section 13.83 (3) (f), Wisconsin Statutes, as created by Chapter 39, Laws of 1975, the Technical Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives of 7 major executive agencies, assists the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations.

Law Revision Committee

Members: SENATOR CARPENTER, REPRESENTATIVE SUDER, *cochairpersons*; SENATORS GROTHMAN, SULLIVAN; REPRESENTATIVES HUBLER, ROTH.

The Law Revision Committee is appointed each biennium by the Joint Legislative Council. The membership of the committee is not specified, but it must include majority and minority party representation from each house. The committee reviews minor nonsubstantive remedial changes to the statutes as proposed by state agencies, in attorney general’s opinions, or in court decisions declaring a Wisconsin statute unconstitutional, ambiguous, or otherwise in need of revision. It considers proposals by the Revisor of Statutes to correct statutory language and session laws that conflict or need revision, and it may submit recommendations for major law revision projects to the Joint Legislative Council. It serves as the repository for interstate compacts and agreements and makes recommendations to the legislature regarding revision of such agreements. The committee was created by Chapter 204, Laws of 1979, and its composition and duties are prescribed in Section 13.83 (1) of the statutes.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES REPORTING IN 2007

Special Committee on Affirmative Action

Members: SENATOR GROTHMAN, *chairperson*; SENATOR TAYLOR; REPRESENTATIVES GRIGSBY, KESSLER, SUDER; JEAN ABRAMOWSKI, ROSE ALCALA-AMANT, RUDY BINTER, RAYMOND CAMOSY,



Representative Marlin Schneider, of Wisconsin Rapids, the longest-serving member of the Assembly, shared his views with colleagues during floor debate. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

JEFFREY DZIEDZIC, ROBERT GREGG, FRED MOHS, MARIE MONTEAGUDO, ANN M. NISCHKE, CHI SATHER, KAMAL SHAH, KATE WAGNER, VICKI WASHINGTON, JEREMY WICK, NOEL WILLIAMS.

The special committee is directed to review state and local government affirmative action policies, including policies in student admission to the University of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Technical College System, and state contracting and hiring, to determine whether those policies are uniform in content and administration throughout the state and local government, the effect of those policies on the public, and whether these policies are cost-effective.

Special Committee on Airport Authorities

Members: REPRESENTATIVE STONE, *chairperson*; SENATOR PLALE; REPRESENTATIVES HONADEL, KESSLER, TOWNSEND; RICHARD ABELSON, JASON BITTNER, TERRENCE KURTENBACH, DICK RICHARDS, GEORGE TORRES, JAMES WHITE, TERRY WITKOWSKI, DAN WRUCK.

The special committee is to review the possible ownership and operation of airports in this state by independent airport authorities to ensure an efficient transportation system to foster regional and state economic growth; if desirable, recommend implementing legislation for independent airport authorities, including creation, jurisdiction, governance, finance, transfer, and transition.

Special Committee on Applicability of Open Meetings Law to Quasi-Governmental Bodies

Members: SENATOR S. FITZGERALD, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVES J. FITZGERALD, LOTHIAN, POCAN; DUANE FOULKES, PETER FOX, JOSEPH HASLER, JEFF KITCHEN, JOHN LAABS, ANDY LEWIS, JAMES OTTERSTEIN, MELANIE SWANK, ELLEN TOTZKE.

The special committee is directed to review recent Attorney General opinions regarding the applicability of the Open Meetings Law to “quasi-governmental” bodies, such as economic development corporations, to determine whether the public policy set forth in those opinions is desirable; and develop legislation to clarify the applicability of the Open Meetings Law to quasi-governmental bodies either by codifying those policies or by delineating the specific condition under which quasi-governmental bodies are subject to the Open Meetings Law.

Special Committee on Charter Schools

Members: REPRESENTATIVE VUKMIR, *chairperson*; SENATORS DARLING, KANAVAS; REPRESENTATIVES NEWCOMER, SINICKI; DIANE BARKMEIER, BILL BAUMGART, PHILLIP ERTL, HOWARD FULLER, BARBARA HORTON, CRAIG JEFSON, SANDRA MILLS, NOELLE MUDRAK, RACHEL SCHULTZ, BEN VOGEL, CINDY ZAUTCHE.

The special committee is directed to study current state laws relating to charter schools and to develop proposed legislation for new charter schools to be created and to improve the ability of charter schools to serve pupils. The committee may examine funding of charter schools, including providing funding for technology in charter schools and financing of charter school facilities; accountability for charter school pupil performance; transportation of pupils to charter schools; the types of entities that may establish or contract for the establishment of charter schools; the types of entities with which a chartering entity may contract to operate a charter school; benefits provided to charter school employees; the process by which charter schools are established or a contract is renewed or terminated; benefits or protections provided to other schools that may be expanded to apply to charter schools; and other issues relating to modernizing charter school law.

Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning

Members: REPRESENTATIVE BALLWEG, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVES BENEDICT, HINES, KERKMAN; DAN ALEXANDER, BILL BAZAN, VICKI BIER, ROBERT A. CARLSON, WILLIAM DOWLING, KURT EGGBRECHT, PETE EIDE, CURTIS HAUGEN, KATHY MUNSEY, LEONARD ORLANDO, ROBERT RITGER, DIANA TATILI.

The special committee is directed to study and make recommendations in the area of public and private cooperation in preparedness planning for emergency responses to natural and man-made disasters, including pandemics. Issues to be examined include: 1) private sector assistance to governmental entities responding to disasters; 2) plans for state and local legislative bodies to continue to function during disasters, including lines of succession; 3) responsibility for evacuating hospitals and long-term care facilities; 4) the ability for products such as food and first aid supplies to reach markets during disasters; 5) alternative transportation plans for supplies; 6) responsibility for keeping civil order during disasters; 7) responsibility for caring for medically needy persons during disasters; 8) dissemination of information to the public during disasters if regular modes of communication are unavailable; 9) coordination of resources in rural areas through regional plans; and 10) effectiveness of mutual aid agreements, with an emphasis on interstate mutual aid agreements, and liability issues under these agreements.

Special Committee on District Attorney Funding and Administration

Members: REPRESENTATIVE GUNDRUM, *chairperson*; SENATORS RISSE, ROESSLER; REPRESENTATIVE MOLEPSKE; JOHN BLAKEMAN, ADAM GEROL, JEFF GREIPP, SCOTT HORNE, CRAIG KNUTSON, LARRY LASEE, STUART MORSE, DAVID RESHESKE.

The special committee is directed to review state funding for district attorneys, deputy district attorneys, and assistant district attorneys to determine if other funding sources exist to support funding of those positions under existing funding levels. The committee is also directed to review state administrative functions pertaining to district attorneys, deputy district attorneys, and assistant district attorneys to determine if any changes should be made in the state administrative structure as it relates to those functions.

Special Committee on Expunction of Criminal Records

Members: REPRESENTATIVE VOS, *chairperson*; SENATORS A. LASEE, RISSE; REPRESENTATIVE GRIGSBY; GARY CARLSON, TIM COSTELLO, RICHARD DUFOUR, BILL DYKE, MICHELLE LITJENS, BILL LUEDERS, LYN OPELT, SHEILA REIFF, DENNIS ROME, KELLI THOMPSON.

The special committee is directed to study the circumstances under which records related to civil forfeiture and criminal proceedings may be expunged by Wisconsin courts and other record custodians. The circumstances to be considered include whether a record subject is a first offender, the age of the record subject, the time that has elapsed since the proceeding was commenced or the record subject was convicted, and the nature or seriousness of the crime or violation.

Special Committee on Great Lakes Water Resources Compact

Members: SENATOR KEDZIE, *chairperson*; SENATORS COWLES, LAZICH, WIRCH; REPRESENTATIVES NEWCOMER, RICHARDS, STEINBRINK, VAN ROY; ANN BEIER, KEVIN CRAWFORD, DAN DUCHNIAK, JODI HABUSH SINYKIN, HALLET HARRIS, ANDREW LISAK, WILLIAM MIELKE, MATTHEW MORONEY, KEITH REOPELLE, JAMES SURFUS, ED WILUSZ.

The special committee is directed to develop legislation to ratify and implement the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact proposed by the governors of the Great Lakes states. In developing this legislation, the special committee shall consider the need for new or modified water resource management strategies, including an integrated strategy that is based on the relationships between surface water, groundwater, and water-dependent natural resources and that addresses water quantity and quality issues in a coordinated manner.

Special Committee on Highway Weight Limits

Members: REPRESENTATIVE GOTTLIEB, *chairperson*; SENATORS DECKER, JAUCH; REPRESENTATIVES FRISKE, PETROWSKI; DANA COOK, ALVIN J. GEURTS, CHAD HOLLETT, TOM HOWELLS, BILL JOHNSON, BRIAN MCQUESTION, MICHAEL J. OTTERY, HENRY SCHIENEBECK, ARTHUR SCOLA, CHARLES TEASDALE, PAULA VANDEHEY.

The special committee must review the system of motor vehicle weight limits on the state's highways and bridges. The study must include the issues and interrelationships between economic impacts, truck configurations, expected compliance levels and enforcement constraints, and impacts on the public infrastructure, operational, and safety issues.

Special Committee on Navigability and Drainage Ditches

Members: SENATOR A. LASEE, *chairperson*; SENATOR GROTHMAN; REPRESENTATIVES ALBERS, GRONEMUS, HAHN; JOHN H. AINSWORTH, JERRY BRADLEY, DAVID GOLLON, GEORGE MEYER, SCOTT STORLID.

The current definition of navigability is based on a combination of statutes and Wisconsin court decisions. Some elements of the current test of navigability are quantitative or are based on factual observations by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The special committee is directed to review methods to clarify "navigability" as defined in statutes and administrative rules, with a focus on how the definition of navigability impacts the regulation of drainage ditches and ditches with no stream history. The committee is to review the methods the DNR uses to determine navigability.

Special Committee on Nuclear Power

Members: REPRESENTATIVE MONTGOMERY, *chairperson*; SENATOR HANSEN; REPRESENTATIVES BENEDICT, HONADEL, VOS; FORREST CEEL, MICHAEL CORRADINI, CHARLES HIGLEY, KATIE NEKOLA, JOHN ORTH, TERRY PICKENS, BRIAN RUDE, PAT SCHILLINGER, RICHARD SHATEN, SUSAN STRATTON, BILL WARD, JACK WEISSGERBER.

The special committee is directed to study the role of nuclear power in Wisconsin's energy future and to develop legislation that implements the recommended role, including, as appropriate, any modifications to the state's nuclear power moratorium.

Special Committee on Placement of Sex Offenders

Members: REPRESENTATIVES BIES, SUDER, *cochairpersons*; SENATOR TAYLOR; SUSAN EBERHARD, MEL FLANAGAN, KERRY KIRN, SANDY MAHER-JOHNSON, TERRY MARSHALL, LARRY RICKARD, AUDREY SKWIERAWSKI, MARLA STEPHENS.

The special committee is directed to study current policies and practices of the Department of Corrections relating to placement of persons who have been convicted of a sex offense in the community. The special committee shall also review current statutes relating to placement of sex offenders and determine whether additional statutory requirements on where such offenders may be placed would enhance public safety. The special committee shall also study the effect of placing additional statutory requirements on the ability to place offenders and the impact of additional requirements on urban and rural areas of Wisconsin.

Special Committee on Powers and Duties of Coroners and Medical Examiners

Members: ANN M. NISCHKE, *chairperson*; SENATORS LASEE, RISSER; REPRESENTATIVES LEMAHIEU, VRUWINK; ANTHONY M. D’ALESSANDRO, SUSAN KARASKIEWICZ, MELANIE G. RAMEY, MICHELLE RINEHART, JOHN E. STANLEY, THOMAS THELEN.

The special committee is directed to review current laws and practices on the roles of coroners and medical examiners in the reporting and investigation of deaths to determine if those laws should be revised for enhanced organization and clarity and to achieve greater efficiency, uniformity, and quality in the reporting and investigation of deaths.

Special Committee on Recodification of Chapter 21, Military Affairs

Members: REPRESENTATIVE MUSSER, *chairperson*; SENATOR S. FITZGERALD; REPRESENTATIVE SCHNEIDER; DAVID DZIOBKOWSKI, ANTHONY HARDIE, TERENCE MCARDLE, RANDI MILSAP, ANN NISCHKE, LARRY OLSON.

The special committee is directed to conduct a recodification of Chapter 21, Wisconsin Statutes, relating to military affairs, to include reorganizing the chapter in a logical manner, renumbering and retitleing sections, consolidating related provisions, modernizing language, resolving ambiguities in language, making other necessary organizational changes, and making minor substantive changes.

Special Committee on Review of Crimes Against Children

Members: SENATOR DARLING, *chairperson*; SENATOR LAZICH; REPRESENTATIVES JESKEWITZ, KAUFERT, KLEEFISCH, OWENS, POCAN; MICHAEL BRENNAN, DEBRA DAVIDOSKI, JEFF GREIPP, MICHAEL MURRAY, SCOTT SOUTHWORTH, MICHAEL TOBIN.

The special committee is directed to review current crimes against children under Chapter 948, Wisconsin Statutes, that relate to child pornography, communicating with a child over a computerized communications system, sex offenders working or volunteering with children, and sexual assault of a child to determine whether these statutes should be clarified and whether the penalties



Assistant Assembly Majority Leader Mark Gundrum, of New Berlin, has the floor during the debate on the Ethics bill during the January 2007 Special Session. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)



The Senate Parlor offers members a quiet place to discuss matters away from the floor. Here Senator Mark Miller, of Monona, and newly elected Senator Kathleen Vinehout, of Alma, share a moment. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

for these offenses are consistent and appropriate. Recodifying other portions of Chapter 948, Wisconsin Statutes, may also be considered.

Special Committee on Review of State School Aid Formula

Members: SENATOR OLSEN, *chairperson*; SENATORS DARLING, ERPENBACH, LASSA; REPRESENTATIVES DAVIS, FIELDS, MURSAU, STRACHOTA, VRUWINK, M. WILLIAMS; GARY ANDREWS, TODD BERRY, ROBERT BORCH, JOHN BURNETT, JOHN GAIER, NANCY HENDRICKSON, DIANNE LANG, MICHELLE NATE, ANDREW RESCHOVSKY, DEBI TOWNS, RON WELCH.

The special committee is directed to study the current state school aid formula for public elementary and secondary schools in the state and to develop legislation to improve the method of allocating state funds to school districts. The committee shall review the various components that are used to calculate and distribute school aids under the equalization formula and for categorical programs. Also, the committee may review issues related to declining enrollment and increasing property values. The committee may also review the current statutory restraints on local spending, including revenue limits and general referendum requirements, and qualified economic offers to teachers under Section 111.70, Wisconsin Statutes. In addition, the committee may review funding formulas in other states and emerging trends in school finance as well as issues associated with rising property values and declining enrollments.

Special Committee on State Trails Policy

Members: SENATOR BRESKE, *chairperson*; SENATOR SCHULTZ; REPRESENTATIVES HUBLER, A. OTT; KEN CARPENTER, RICHARD DECKER, DAVE MARCOUILLER, MICHAEL MCFADZEN, JOEL PATENAUDE, MARK L. PETTIS, JOHN RUF, JACK SAUER.

The special committee is directed to: 1) review the current policies for the acquisition, development, and management of public use trails in Wisconsin by all state agencies and local governmental units, and including connecting trails that are privately owned; 2) review issues related to public use trails within the state, including planning for trail acquisition and use, involvement of trail user groups, design and construction of trails, location and connection of trails, designation of certain trails for specific uses, methods for addressing user conflicts, benefits of trails for eco-

conomic development, and funding for trails; 3) place particular emphasis on issues related to trail uses by motorized vehicles; and 4) recommend, as appropriate, a comprehensive policy for trails in this state or methods for the development of a state trails policy, and methods for state agencies and local governmental units to implement state trail policies.

Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families

Members: REPRESENTATIVE KESTELL, *chairperson*; SENATORS SCHULTZ, TAYLOR; REPRESENTATIVES PRIDEMORE, SEIDEL; JON D. ANGELI, LISA BOYD-GONZALEZ, JOHN BURGESS, CHARITY ELESON, CAROL KELSO, PAUL MINKUS, KENNETH MUNSON, JODI ROBERTS, PAULA ROBERTS, JACK WESTMAN, CAROL WRIGHT.

The Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families is appointed each biennium to study issues relating to strengthening Wisconsin families and to develop specific recommendations and legislative proposals relating to that topic. In the 2007-2009 legislative biennium, the council has directed the special committee to study the Wisconsin Works (W-2) Program and the child welfare system to determine methods to improve collaboration between the two systems in order to support, strengthen, and in some cases, reunify families. The special committee is to review recent legislative audits of both systems; determine how the W-2 Program may be more supportive of the family unit; and determine how the child welfare system affects the receipt of public benefits and how public benefits affect a parent's ability to meet conditions under a child welfare order.

The special committee is to have no fewer than 4 nor more than 12 legislative members, and no fewer than 6 nor more than 11 nonlegislative members. The composition and duties of the special committee are prescribed in section 13.83 (4) of the statutes.

The special committee was created by 2005 Wisconsin Act 467, and is scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2010.

Special Committee on Uniform Debt Management Services

Members: REPRESENTATIVE WIECKERT, *chairperson*; SENATORS COGGS, ELLIS; REPRESENTATIVE KAUFERT; KATHRYN CRUMPTON, JOANNE HUELSMAN, LINDA KENNEDY, ROSE OSWALD POELS, CLAIRE ANN RESOP, RICK SENSE, CINDY TANG.

The special committee is directed to review Subchapter V of Chapter 422 of the current Wisconsin Statutes regarding credit services organizations and the Uniform Debt Management Services Act proposed by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in order to determine whether to recommend adoption of the Uniform Debt Management Services Act to the Wisconsin Legislature.

Joint Committee on LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION

Members: SENATOR RISSER (senate president), REPRESENTATIVE HUEBSCH (assembly speaker), *cochairpersons*; SENATORS ROBSON (majority leader), S. FITZGERALD (minority leader), HANSEN (assistant majority leader), LEIBHAM (assistant minority leader); REPRESENTATIVES J. FITZGERALD (majority leader), KREUSER (minority leader), GUNDRUM (assistant majority leader), RICHARDS (assistant minority leader).

Mailing Address: Legislative Council Staff, P.O. Box 2536, Madison 53701-2536.

Location: 1 East Main Street, Suite 401, Madison.

Telephone: 266-1304.

Statutory References: Sections 13.80 and 13.90.

Agency Responsibility: The Joint Committee on Legislative Organization is the policy-making body for the legislative service bureaus: the Legislative Audit Bureau, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the Legislative Reference Bureau, the Legislative Technology Services Bureau, and the Revisor of Statutes Bureau. In this capacity, it assigns tasks to each bureau,

approves bureau budgets, and sets the salary of bureau heads. The joint committee selects the five bureau heads, but it acts on the recommendation of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee when appointing the state auditor. The joint committee also selects the director of the Legislative Council Staff.

The committee may inquire into misconduct by members and employees of the legislature. It oversees a variety of operations, including the work schedule for the legislation session, computer use, space allocation for legislative offices and legislative service agencies, parking on the State Capitol Park grounds, and sale and distribution of legislative documents. The joint committee recommends which newspaper should serve as the official state newspaper for publication of state legal notices. It advises the Government Accountability Board on its operations and, upon recommendation of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, may investigate any problems the Legislative Audit Bureau finds during its audits. The committee may employ outside consultants to study ways to improve legislative staff services and organization.

Organization: The 10-member joint committee is a permanent body, consisting of the presiding officers and party leadership of both houses. The committee has established a Subcommittee on Legislative Services to advise it on text processing and other matters. The Legislative Council Staff provides staff assistance to the committee.

History: The joint committee was created by Chapter 149, Laws of 1963, as part of a legislative reorganization proposed by the Committee on Legislative Organization and Procedure under the authority of Chapter 686, Laws of 1961. The 1963 law also transferred the Legislative Reference Bureau and the Statutory Revision Bureau to the legislative branch and placed them under the supervision of the joint committee. The three other service agencies were placed under the committee's authority by later legislation: the Legislative Audit Bureau in Chapter 659, Laws of 1965; the Legislative Fiscal Bureau in Chapter 215, Laws of 1971; and the Legislative Technology Services Bureau in 1997 Wisconsin Act 27.

In 1966, the joint committee was empowered to investigate misconduct by legislators and legislative staff. Actions by subsequent legislatures expanded the joint committee's supervision of leg-



Impassioned debate is par for the course in the Wisconsin Legislature. Long-time Senator Mike Ellis, of Neenah, lets his position be known. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

islative operations to include legislative office space, legislative computer operations, and publication of notices and documents.

Joint Survey Committee on RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

Members: SENATOR WIRCH, REPRESENTATIVE JESKEWITZ, *cochairpersons*; SENATORS TAYLOR, OLSEN; REPRESENTATIVES LOTHIAN, TRAVIS; CHARLOTTE GIBSON (assistant attorney general appointed by attorney general), *secretary*; DAVID STELLA (designated by secretary of employee trust funds), SEAN DILWEG (insurance commissioner); MICHAEL R. LUTTIG (public member appointed by governor).

Mailing Address: Legislative Council Staff, P.O. Box 2536, Madison 53701-2536.

Telephone: 266-1304.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.50.

Agency Responsibility: The Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems makes recommendations on all legislation that affects retirement and pension plans for public officers and employees, and its recommendations must be attached as an appendix to each retirement bill. Neither house of the legislature may consider such a bill until the joint survey committee submits a written report that describes the proposal's purpose, probable costs, actuarial effect, and desirability as a matter of public policy.

Organization: The 10-member joint survey committee includes majority and minority party representation from each legislative house. An experienced actuary from the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance may be designated to serve in the commissioner's place on the committee. The public member cannot be a participant in any public retirement system in the state and is expected to "represent the interests of the taxpayers". Appointed members serve 4-year terms unless they lose the status upon which the appointment was based. The joint survey committee is assisted by the Joint Legislative Council staff in the performance of its duties, but may contract for actuarial assistance outside the classified service.

Joint Legislative STATE SUPPORTED PROGRAMS STUDY AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members: Inactive.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.47.

Agency Responsibility: Members of the Joint Legislative State Supported Programs Study and Advisory Committee visit and inspect the State Capitol and all institutions and office buildings owned or leased by the state. They are granted free and full access to all parts of the buildings, the surrounding grounds, and all persons associated with the buildings. The committee may also examine any institution, program, or organization that receives direct or indirect state financial support.

Organization: The committee consists of 5 senators and 6 representatives. Members appointed from each house must represent the two major political parties, and one legislator from each house must also be a member of the State of Wisconsin Building Commission. Assistance to the committee is provided by the Legislative Council Staff.

History: The use of a legislative committee to visit and supervise the use of state institutions and property dates back to 1881. The current joint committee was created by Chapter 266, Laws of 1973. It replaced the Committee to Visit State Properties, which had combined the functions



The Assembly majority leader normally also serves as the chairperson of the Rules Committee. In this dual role, Representative Jeff Fitzgerald, of Horicon, oversees the formation of the Assembly calendar and coordinates the floor debate on behalf of the majority. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

of the Committee to Visit State Institutions, created in 1947 to inspect state property and state institutions, and the Committee on Physical Plant Maintenance, created in 1957 to manage the State Capitol and the single state office building then in existence.

Joint Survey Committee on TAX EXEMPTIONS

Members: SENATOR ERPENBACH, REPRESENTATIVE WOOD, *cochairpersons*; SENATORS DECKER, ELLIS*; REPRESENTATIVES F. LASEE, HUBLER*; ROGER M. ERVIN (secretary of revenue); F. THOMAS CREERON (Department of Justice representative appointed by attorney general); KATHRYN DUNN (public member appointed by governor).

Mailing Address: Legislative Council Staff, P.O. Box 2536, Madison 53701-2536.

Telephone: 266-1304.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.52.

Agency Responsibility: The Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions, created by Chapter 153, Laws of 1963, considers all legislation related to the exemption of persons or property from state or local taxes. It is assisted by the Legislative Council Staff.

Any legislative proposal that affects tax exemptions must be referred to the committee immediately upon introduction. Budget bills containing tax exemptions are referred simultaneously to the joint survey committee and the Joint Committee on Finance. The joint survey committee must report within 60 days on the tax exemptions contained within a budget bill. Neither house of the legislature may consider tax exemption proposals until the joint survey committee has issued its report, attached as an appendix to the bill, describing the proposal's legality, desirability as public policy, and fiscal effect. In the course of its review, the committee is authorized to conduct investigations, hold hearings, and subpoena witnesses.

Organization: The 9-member committee includes representation from each house of the legislature with 2 members from the majority party and one from the minority party. The public member must be familiar with the tax problems of local government. Members' terms expire on January 15 of odd-numbered years.

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS COMMISSION

Members: GOVERNOR DOYLE, *chairperson*; SENATORS BRESKE, DECKER, vacancy; A. LASEE, GROTHMAN; REPRESENTATIVES MONTGOMERY, GOTTLIEB, PETROWSKI; VRUWINK, NELSON; LEE MEYERHOFER, MICHAEL R. RYAN, LEONARD SOBCZAK (citizen members appointed by governor). Nonvoting member: FRANK BUSALACCHI (secretary of transportation).

Commission Secretary: JENNIFER CANCHOLA, jennifer.canchola@dot.state.wi.us

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7913, Madison 53707-7913.

Location: Hill Farms State Transportation Building, 4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Room 901, Madison.

Telephone: 266-5408.

Fax: 267-1856.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.489.

Agency Responsibility: The Transportation Projects Commission, created by 1983 Wisconsin Act 27, includes representation from each house of the legislature with 3 members from the majority party and 2 from the minority party. The commission reviews Department of Transportation recommendations for major highway projects. The department must report its recommendations to the commission by September 15 of each even-numbered year, and the commission, in turn, reports its recommendations to the governor or governor-elect, the legislature, and the Joint Committee on Finance before December 15 of each even-numbered year. The department must also provide the commission with a status report on major transportation projects every 6 months. The commission also approves the preparation of environmental impact or assessment statements for potential major highway projects.

Commission on UNIFORM STATE LAWS

Members: JOANNE HUELSMAN, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE CULLEN, *vice chairperson*; BRUCE MUNSON (revisor of statutes), *secretary*; SENATOR RISSER; REPRESENTATIVE GUNDRUM; RICHARD A. CHAMPAGNE (designated by chief, Legislative Reference Bureau); TERRY ANDERSON (director, Legislative Council Staff); ANN WALSH BRADLEY, WALTER KELLY (public members appointed by governor).

Mailing Address: 131 West Wilson Street, Suite 800, Madison 53703-3261.

Telephone: 266-2011.

Fax: 264-6978.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.55.

Agency Responsibility: The Commission on Uniform State Laws advises the legislature on uniform laws and model laws. It examines subjects on which interstate uniformity is desirable and the best methods for achieving it, cooperates with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in preparing uniform acts, and prepares bills adapting the uniform acts to Wisconsin. The commission reports biennially to the Law Revision Committee of the Joint Legislative Council.

Organization: The commission consists of 9 members, including 2 public members appointed by the governor for 4-year terms. Legislative members serve 2-year terms, must represent the 2

major political parties, and must be state bar association members. A legislative seat may be filled by a former legislator if no current legislator meets the criteria, or if no eligible legislator is willing or able to accept the appointment.

History: The commission was originally created by Chapter 83, Laws of 1893, which authorized the governor to appoint 3 members to serve as the Commissioners for the Promotion of Uniformity of Legislation in the United States. In 1931, Chapter 67 designated the Revisor of Statutes as the sole Wisconsin commissioner. Chapter 173, Laws of 1941, added the chief of the Legislative Reference Library as a commissioner. The commission was created in its present form by Chapter 312, Laws of 1957, and its membership was expanded to include 2 members of the State Bar appointed by the governor. Chapter 135, Laws of 1959, added the director (then called the executive secretary) of the Legislative Council Staff as a member. Chapter 294, Laws of 1979, added 4 legislative members and deleted the requirement that public members appointed by the governor be members of the State Bar. 2003 Wisconsin Act 2 added a requirement that legislative members must be state bar association members.



The legislature acts on behalf of the people. Legislators often meet with the people they represent in order to hear their opinions. Senator Julie Lassa, of Stevens Point, meets with a group of her constituents in her capitol office. (Brent Nicastro, Legislative Photographer)

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AGENCIES

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT BUREAU

State Auditor: JANICE L. MUELLER, janice.mueller@

Deputy State Auditor for Financial Audit: BRYAN NAAB, bryan.naab@

Deputy State Auditor for Program Evaluation: PAUL STUIBER, paul.stuiber@

Special Assistant to the State Auditor: JOE CHRISMAN, james.chrisman@

Audit Directors: DIANN L. ALLSEN, diann.allsen@; CAROLYN STITTLEBURG, carolyn.stittleburg@;
KATE WADE, kate.wade@

Mailing Address: 22 East Mifflin Street, Suite 500, Madison 53703-2512.

Telephone: 266-2818.

Fax: 267-0410.

Internet Address: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab>

E-mail Address: Leg.Audit.Info@legis.wisconsin.gov

Address e-mail by combining the user ID and the state extender: userID@legis.wisconsin.gov
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Publications: Audit reports of individual state agencies and programs; biennial reports.

Number of Employees: 86.80.

Total Budget 2005-07: \$13,649,100.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.94.

Agency Responsibility: The Legislative Audit Bureau is responsible for conducting financial and program audits to assist the legislature in its oversight function. The bureau performs financial audits to determine whether agencies have conducted and reported their financial transactions legally and properly. It undertakes program audits to analyze whether agencies have managed their programs efficiently and effectively and have carried out the policies prescribed by law.

The bureau's authority extends to executive, legislative, and judicial agencies; authorities created by the legislature; special districts or zones; and certain service providers that receive state funds. The bureau may audit any county, city, village, town, or school district at the request of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

The bureau audits and reports on the financial transactions and records of every state agency at least once every 5 years. Agencies or funds audited more frequently include the State of Wisconsin Investment Board, the Department of Employee Trust Funds, State Fair Park, the state lottery, and various state insurance funds. In addition, the bureau provides an annual audit opinion on the state's comprehensive financial statements, which are prepared by the Department of Administration.

Typically, the bureau's program audits are conducted at the request of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, initiated by bureau staff, or required by legislation. The reports are reviewed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, which may hold hearings on them and may introduce legislation in response to audit recommendations.

Organization: The director of the bureau is the State Auditor, who is appointed by the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization upon the recommendation of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. Both the State Auditor and the bureau's staff are appointed from outside the classified service.

History: The bureau was created as a legislative service agency under the jurisdiction of the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization by Chapter 659, Laws of 1965. It replaced the Department of State Audit, which was created by Chapter 9, Laws of 1947, as an executive agency. This followed a 1946 constitutional amendment that removed auditing powers from the secretary of state and authorized the legislature to provide for state audits by law.

Statutory Advisory Council

Municipal Best Practices Reviews Advisory Council: CRAIG KNUTSON, MORT MCBAIN (representing the Wisconsin Counties Association); DANIEL ELSASS (representing the League of Wis-



The Senate Scholars program offers high school students from each senate district in the state the opportunity to come to Madison and learn about the legislative process first-hand. Senators Bob Jauch, of Poplar, and Dan Kapanke, of La Crosse, meet with the 2007 scholars in the Senate Parlor. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

consin Municipalities); EDWARD HUCK (representing the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities); DONNA VOGEL (representing the Wisconsin Towns Association). (All are appointed by the State Auditor.)

The 5-member Municipal Best Practices Reviews Advisory Council advises the State Auditor on the selection of county and municipal service delivery practices to be reviewed by the State Auditor. The auditor is required to conduct periodic reviews of procedures and practices used by local governments in the delivery of governmental services; identify variations in costs and effectiveness of such services between counties and municipalities; and recommend practices to save money or provide more effective service delivery. Council members are chosen from candidates submitted by the organizations represented. The council was created by 1999 Wisconsin Act 9 in Section 13.94 (8), Wisconsin Statutes, and succeeds the council created by 1995 Wisconsin Act 27.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF

See Joint Legislative Council pp. 290-292

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL BUREAU

Director: ROBERT WM. LANG.

Program Supervisors: FRED AMMERMAN, JERE BAUER, DARYL HINZ, DAVID LOPPNOW, CHARLES MORGAN, ROB REINHARDT.

Administrative Assistant: VICKI HOLTEN.

Mailing Address: 1 East Main Street, Suite 301, Madison 53703.

Telephone: 266-3847.

Fax: 267-6873.

Internet Address: www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb

E-mail Address: fiscal.bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov

Publications: Biennial budget and budget adjustment; summaries of state agency budget requests; cumulative and comparative summaries of the governor's proposals, Joint Committee on Finance provisions and legislative amendments, and separate summaries of legislative amendments when necessary; summary of governor's partial vetoes. Informational reports, budget issue papers on various state programs, and revenue estimates. (Reports and papers available on the Internet or upon request.)

Number of Employees: 35.00.

Total Budget 2005-07: \$6,842,400.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.95.

Agency Responsibility: The Legislative Fiscal Bureau develops fiscal information for the legislature, and its services must be impartial and nonpartisan. One of the bureau's principal duties is to staff the Joint Committee on Finance and assist its members. As part of this responsibility, the bureau studies the state budget and its long-range implications, reviews state revenues and expenditures, and suggests alternatives to the committee and the legislature. In addition, the bureau provides information on all other bills before the joint committee and analyzes agency requests for new positions and appropriation supplements outside of the budget process.

The bureau provides fiscal information to any legislative committee or legislator upon request. On its own initiative, or at legislative direction, the bureau may conduct studies of any financial issue affecting the state. To aid the bureau in performing its duties, the director or designated employees are granted access, with or without notice, to all state departments and to any records maintained by the agencies relating to their expenditures, revenues, operations, and structure.

Organization: The Joint Committee on Legislative Organization is the policy-making body for the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, and it selects the bureau's director. The director is assisted by program supervisors responsible for broadly defined subject areas of government budgeting and fiscal operations. The director and all bureau staff are chosen outside the classified service.

History: The bureau was created by Chapter 154, Laws of 1969. It evolved from the legislative improvement study that was initiated by Chapter 686, Laws of 1961, using a Ford Foundation grant and state funding. Through the improvement program, the legislature developed its own fiscal staff, known as the Legislative Budget Staff, under the supervision of the Legislative Programs Study Committee. In February 1968, the study committee renamed the budget staff the Legislative Fiscal Bureau and specified its functions. Chapter 215, Laws of 1971, transferred responsibility for the bureau's supervision to the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

Chief: STEPHEN R. MILLER, 267-2175, steve.miller@legis.wisconsin.gov

Administrative Services: CATHELENE HANAMAN, *manager*, 267-9810,
cathele.hanaman@legis.wisconsin.gov

Information and Research Services: LAWRENCE S. BARISH, *research manager*, 266-0344,
larry.barish@legis.wisconsin.gov

Legal Services: PETER R. GRANT, DEBORA A. KENNEDY, JEFFREY T. KUESEL, REBECCA C. TRADEWELL, *managing attorneys*.

Library Services: MARIAN G. ROGERS, *managing librarian*, 266-2824,
marian.rogers@legis.wisconsin.gov

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2037, Madison 53701-2037.

Location: 1 East Main Street, Suite 200.

Telephones: Legal: 266-3561; Research: 266-0341; Library Circulation: 266-7040.

Fax: Legal: 264-6948; Research and Library: 266-5648.

Internet Address: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb>

Publications: *Wisconsin Blue Book*; informational reports on various subjects; *Selective List of Recent Acquisitions*; various sections of the *Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Wisconsin Legislature*. (All informational reports and the *Blue Book* are also available on the Internet.)

Number of Employees: 58.00.

Total Budget 2005-07: \$10,480,700.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.92.

Agency Responsibility: The Legislative Reference Bureau provides nonpartisan, professional, confidential bill drafting, research, and library services to the legislature. Although it is primarily a legislative service agency, the bureau also serves public officials, students of government, and citizens.



Senator Scott Fitzgerald, of Juneau, was elected minority leader in 2007. Here he addresses the Senate on the Emergency Contraception Bill. (Brent Nicastro, Legislative Photographer)

By statute, the bureau is responsible for drafting all legislative proposals and amendments for introduction in the legislature. Legislative attorneys also prepare plain language analyses that are printed with all bills and most resolutions. A significant portion of the work of the legislative attorneys involves the drafting of the state's biennial budget.

The bureau enrolls the final text of all bills that have passed both houses prior to their submission for the governor's action. The bureau is also responsible for publishing each act, and, in consultation with the Revisor of Statutes, produces the bound volumes of all session laws enacted during the biennial legislative session.

The reference and library sections collect and make available a broad range of information to aid legislators and other government officials in the performance of their duties. The reference section publishes reports on subjects of legislative concern and, in the odd-numbered years, it publishes the 1,000-page *Wisconsin Blue Book*, the official almanac of Wisconsin government.

The reference desk responds to inquiries about the work of the legislature and state government in general. The bureau also offers seminars on legislative procedure to students and civic groups.

The Dr. H. Rupert Theobald Legislative Library contains the bureau's extensive collection of material pertaining to government and public policy issues. The library staff prepares the *Index to the Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Wisconsin Legislature* which includes a subject index to legislation, authors indexes, and subject indexes to legislative journals, administrative rules, and Wisconsin acts.

State law requires the bureau to maintain the drafting records of all legislation introduced and to use those records to provide information on legislative intent. Drafting records, beginning with the 1927 session, are available to the public as part of the bureau's noncirculating reference collection.

Organization: The Joint Committee on Legislative Organization is the policy-making body for the bureau, and it selects the bureau chief. The bureau chief and staff members are appointed from outside the classified service.

History: The bureau was created in 1901 by Chapter 168 as the Legislative Reference Library under the governance of the Free Library Commission. It represented the first organized effort in the nation to provide a state legislature with professional staff assistance. Bill drafting responsibilities were officially assigned in 1907 by Chapter 508, although this service actually had been performed earlier. Editing of the *Wisconsin Blue Book* was added to the agency's duties in 1929 (Chapter 194). In Chapter 149, Laws of 1963, the legislature renamed the agency the Legislative Reference Bureau and placed it under the direction of the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization.

REVISOR OF STATUTES BUREAU

Revisor of Statutes: BRUCE MUNSON, 267-3536, bruce.munson@legis.wisconsin.gov

Deputy Revisor and Assistant Revisor, Statutes: BRUCE J. HOESLY, 266-7590,
bruce.hoesly@legis.wisconsin.gov

Assistant Revisor, Administrative Code: GARY L. POULSON, 266-7275,
gary.poulson@legis.wisconsin.gov

Mailing Address: 131 West Wilson Street, Suite 800, Madison 53703-3261.

Telephone: 266-2011.

Fax: 264-6978.

Internet Address: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/rsb>

Publications: Wisconsin Statutes and Annotations; Wisconsin Administrative Code and Register; Wisconsin Town Law Forms; *WisLaw*® on CD-ROM.

Number of Employees: 10.00.

Total Budget 2005-07: \$1,691,500.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.93.

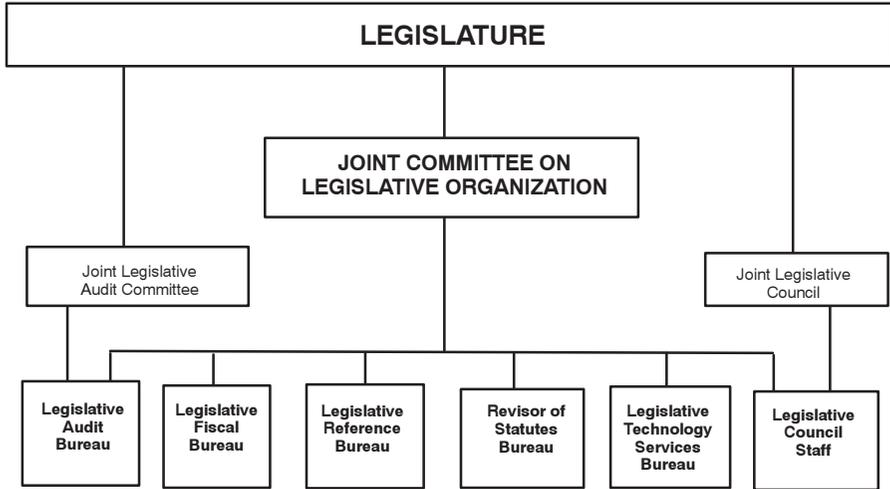
Agency Responsibility: The Revisor of Statutes Bureau edits, annotates, and publishes the Wisconsin Statutes and Annotations, prepares revision and corrections bills, edits and publishes the Wisconsin Administrative Code and Register, and performs related law publishing and advisory functions.

The bureau incorporates newly enacted laws into the existing statutes, thereby updating the state's statutory code. The statutes are published every two years when the legislature completes its session. The bureau also releases quarterly updated versions of the statutes on *WisLaw*®, its CD-ROM periodical, and on its Internet site.

The bureau prepares revisor's corrections bills to correct errors or resolve conflicts arising from the enactment of laws. It reviews attorney general's opinions, federal district and appellate court decisions, and state appellate or supreme court decisions that declare a Wisconsin statute or session law to be ambiguous, in conflict with other laws, anachronistic, unconstitutional, or other-

wise in need of revision. These findings are reported to the Joint Legislative Council's Law Revision Committee. The revisor also systematically examines the statutes and session laws for similar defects and proposes revision bills to the Law Revision Committee.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AGENCIES



The bureau edits and publishes the Wisconsin Administrative Code and the semimonthly Wisconsin Administrative Register, which contains rule hearing and publication notices and summaries of emergency rules. It also prepares the Wisconsin Town Law Forms distributed to town officials to aid them in administering town government. These publications are also published on *WisLaw*® and the bureau's Internet site.

Organization: The Joint Committee on Legislative Organization is the policy-making body for the bureau and appoints the revisor. The revisor and all bureau staff are members of the classified service.

History: Wisconsin was the first state to adopt a plan for continuous revision of its statutes when Chapter 546, Laws of 1909, provided for a Revisor of Statutes to be appointed by the trustees of the state library. The editing and distribution of the Wisconsin Administrative Code and Register were added to the revisor's duties in 1955, but the responsibility for sale and distribution of these documents was transferred in 1963 to the Department of Administration. Chapter 149, Laws of 1963, moved the revisor to the legislative branch by creating the Statutory Revision Bureau under the supervision of the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization. A 1965 law renamed the bureau the Revisor of Statutes Bureau.

LEGISLATIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES BUREAU

Interim Director and Software Development Manager: JEFF YLVISAKER.

Enterprise Operations Manager: MATT HARNED.

Graphical Information Systems Manager: TONY VAN DER WIELEN.

Technical Support Manager: PHIL SCHWARZ.

Mailing Address: 17 West Main Street, Suite 200, Madison 53703.

Telephone: 264-8582.

Fax: 267-6763.

Internet Address: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/ltsb>

Publications: *Wisconsin Legislative Strategic Technology Plan*, 2005, 2007.

Number of Employees: 43.00.

Total Budget 2005-07: \$6,689,100.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.96.

Agency Responsibility: The Legislative Technology Services Bureau (LTSB) is responsible for providing comprehensive technological services and support for the Wisconsin Legislature and its service agencies. It coordinates the planning and execution of electronic information programs and services as required. The bureau protects the confidentiality and ensures the security of all electronic legislative data. Any service provided by the LTSB is strictly nonpartisan.

The bureau develops and supports the specialized programs used for bill drafting, production of the *Wisconsin Statutes* and *Administrative Code*, and publication of the *Wisconsin Blue Book*. In addition, it supports the publication of legislative documents including bills and amendments, house journals, daily calendars, and the Bulletin of the Proceedings. The bureau maintains and implements improvements in the network infrastructure, data center operations, electronic communications, and other legislative technology devices. It keeps inventory of the legislature's computer hardware and software assets, and manages technology replacement schedules. It also provides mapping and redistricting services following each decennial U.S. Census, develops database services that allow legislators to serve their constituents more efficiently, delivers audio and video services, session support, manages the technology for the legislature's Internet site, and offers training services for legislators and staff in the use of information technology. The bureau's duties include maintenance of the legislature's payroll and accounting system, consultation on equipment and procedures for legislative administration, legislative office management, and on-line publication and communication.

Organization: The Joint Committee on Legislative Organization is the policy-making body for the bureau. It selects the director and is specifically responsible for reviewing and approving all information technology proposals. The director appoints bureau staff. Both the director and the staff serve outside the classified service.

History: The bureau was statutorily created by 1997 Wisconsin Act 27 as the Integrated Legislative Information Staff and was renamed by 1997 Wisconsin Act 237.



Representative Jason Fields, of Milwaukee, addresses his colleagues regarding 2007 Assembly Bill 207, the Video Franchising Bill. (Brent Nicastro, Legislative Photographer)

**SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION
ENACTED BY THE 2005 LEGISLATURE**

This section highlights significant legislation enacted by the 2005 Wisconsin Legislature in the biennial session that began January 3, 2005, and concluded January 3, 2007. The legislation is categorized by subject matter and in cases when an act affects more than one area of state law, such as 2005 Wisconsin Act 25 (the budget act), significant provisions are separately described under multiple subject headings. The section concludes with a summary of major proposals that failed to be enacted or adopted.

The regular session of the 2005 Legislature was organized into the following floorperiods:

January 3, 2005	April 5-14, 2005	January 17-February 2, 2006
January 12, 2005	May 3-12, 2005	February 21-March 9, 2006
January 25-27, 2005	May 31-July 1, 2005	April 25-May 4, 2006
February 8, 2005	September 20-29, 2005	May 16-18, 2006
February 15-24, 2005	October 25-November 10, 2005	May 30-31, 2006
March 8-17, 2005	December 6-15, 2005	December 27-28, 2006

The following table summarizes activity in recent legislative sessions:

	Legislative Session				
	1997-98	1999-2000	2001-02	2003-04	2005-06
Total Drafting Requests	11,908	9,774	10,192	9,560	10,134
Bills Introduced	1,521	1,503	1,440	1,568	1,971
Assembly Bills	979	973	941	998	1,232
Senate Bills	542	530	499	570	739
Acts	338	198	109	327	491
Percentage of Bills Enacted	22.2%	13.2%	7.6%	20.9%	25.0%
Bills Totally Vetoed	3	5	0	54	47
Bills Partially Vetoed	8	10	3	10	2

SIGNIFICANT 2005-2006 LEGISLATION

Alcoholic Beverages

Act 103 (AB-787) requires beer sold, transported, or delivered to a retailer to be first unloaded at a wholesaler’s warehouse for which a wholesaler’s license and a warehouse permit have been issued. The warehouse must be in this state and must, with certain exceptions, be a physically separate location from any retail premises or brewery premises. The act requires deliveries of beer to retailers to be made only by wholesalers and only at retail premises. The act generally prohibits retailers from transporting beer from one retail premises to another retail premises for purposes of sale. The act also requires that, to sell, transport, or deliver any brand of beer, a wholesaler must obtain exclusive brand distribution rights for a designated sales territory from the brewer or out-of-state shipper supplying the brand.

Act 268 (AB-619) allows restaurants holding licenses authorizing the sale of wine to sell to customers purchasing food no more than one open bottle of wine per person to be partially consumed with the meal and, after the restaurant recorks the bottle, to be removed by the customer from the restaurant.

Buildings and Safety

Act 78 (AB-544) expands the requirement that certain UW System residence halls and dormitories be fitted with automatic fire sprinkler systems. The act requires that sprinkler systems be installed in all new construction and specifies the date by which existing buildings must have the system.

Business and Consumer Law

Act 25 (AB-100) increases the number of enterprise development zones that the Department of Commerce may establish and requires that at least 35 percent of Wisconsin Development Fund grants and loans be directed to businesses in distressed areas.

Act 75 (AB-593) generally expands eligibility for several loan programs and loan guarantee programs administered by the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA). The act prohibits WHEDA from making, buying, or assuming a home ownership mortgage loan for an individual who does not have a social security number.

Act 124 (SB-1) increased funding for low-income energy assistance and, for fiscal year 2005-06, expanded eligibility for such assistance.

Act 140 (AB-912) allows a consumer to require a credit reporting agency to restrict access to his or her credit report. With certain exceptions, if a consumer requests restricted access, referred to as a “security freeze,” a credit reporting agency may release the consumer’s credit report for purposes of extensions of credit only as authorized by the consumer.

Act 450 (SB-358) prohibits sales of consumer goods or services at unreasonably excessive prices if the governor certifies that the state or a part of the state is in a period of abnormal economic disruption.



Representative Joan Ballweg spoke about organ donation during the debate on Assembly Joint Resolution 41, declaring April 2007 Donate Life Month. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Children

Act 25 (AB-100) permits a child to be placed in the home of a guardian under a termination of parental rights (TPR) dispositional order.

Act 60 (AB-648) requires a law enforcement agency, subject to certain exceptions, to record a custodial interrogation of a juvenile who is suspected of committing a delinquent act and provides that a statement made by a juvenile during a custodial interrogation is not admissible in evidence against the juvenile unless recorded as required under the act.

Act 113 (AB-213) defines the manufacturing of methamphetamine in the presence of a child as “child abuse,” requires such child abuse to be reported and investigated under the child abuse reporting law, and grants to the juvenile court CHIPS (Children In Need of Protection or Services) jurisdiction over a child who is a victim or is at substantial risk of becoming a victim of such child abuse.

Act 184 (*AB-826*) makes it a crime for a person responsible for a child's welfare while the child is being transported in a child care vehicle to leave the child unattended.

Act 343 (*AB-688*) lowers the age at which an adoptee may obtain from the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) identifying information about his or her birth parents from 21 to 18.

Constitutional Amendments

Enrolled Joint Resolution 30 (*Senate Joint Resolution 53*), proposed by the 2005 Legislature on second consideration, provides that only a marriage between one man and one woman is a valid marriage and that a legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried persons is not valid. To become part of the constitution, it must be ratified by the electors.

Enrolled Joint Resolution 39 (*Assembly Joint Resolution 36*), approved by the 2005 Legislature on first consideration, requires a photographic identification issued by this state or the federal government in order to vote, or to register to vote, at the polls on election day, except as the legislature otherwise provides by law. To become part of the constitution, it must be concurred in by the 2007 Legislature and ratified by the electors.

Enrolled Joint Resolution 40 (*Assembly Joint Resolution 68*), proposed by the 2005 Legislature on first consideration, prohibits the governor from using the partial veto authority to reject any individual word in a sentence of an enrolled bill unless the entire sentence is rejected. To become part of the constitution, it must be concurred in by the 2007 Legislature and ratified by the electors.

Enrolled Joint Resolution 46 (*Senate Joint Resolution 33*), proposed by the 2005 Legislature on first consideration, prohibits the governor from using the partial veto authority to create a new sentence by combining parts of two or more sentences of the enrolled bill. To become part of the constitution, it must be concurred in by the 2007 legislature and ratified by the electors.

Correctional System

Act 431 (*AB-591*) requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to maintain lifetime global positioning system (GPS) tracking on certain persons who commit certain child sex offenses and on sexually violent persons and allows DOC to maintain GPS tracking on other sex offenders. The act requires DOC, if necessary to protect public safety, to create zones in which the person being tracked may not enter or zones in which the person being tracked may not leave.

Courts and Civil Actions

Act 183 (*AB-1073*) establishes a limit of \$750,000 on noneconomic damages in medical malpractice cases.

Act 325 (*SB-161*) grants civil immunity to anyone who manufactures, markets, or sells food for any damages resulting from any weight gain or obesity caused by the consumption of the food.

Crime and Criminal Procedure

Crimes

Act 14 (*SB-78*) restricts the purchase and sale of pseudoephedrine products and creates new crimes and penalties relating to pseudoephedrine and other materials used to produce the controlled substance methamphetamine. The act permits pseudoephedrine products to be sold at retail only by a registered pharmacist or by a person who is working under the direction of a registered pharmacist and only to a purchaser who is 18 or over and who presents a photo ID.

Act 114 (*SB-525*) increases the penalties for engaging in disorderly conduct within 500 feet of the site of a funeral or memorial service; increases the penalties for engaging in disorderly conduct that interferes with a funeral procession; prohibits intentionally interfering with a funeral procession; and prohibits blocking access to the site of a funeral or memorial service.

Act 432 (*AB-251*) makes it a Class I felony for a registered sex offender to intentionally photograph, film, or videotape any person under the age of 17 without written consent from the person's parent, custodian, or guardian.

Enrolled Joint Resolution 58 (*Senate Joint Resolution 5*) submits the following question, as an advisory referendum, to the voters at the November 2006 general election: "Should the death penalty be enacted in the State of Wisconsin for cases involving a person who is convicted of first-degree intentional homicide, if the conviction is supported by DNA evidence?"

Criminal Procedure

Act 60 (AB-648) does the following:

- Requires that law enforcement agencies, courts, district attorneys, and the state crime laboratories retain evidence containing biological material from which a DNA profile may be created only if the material is from a crime victim or may reasonably be used to incriminate or exculpate a person for a crime.
- Extends the period for commencing prosecution of a crime that is related to certain sexual assaults. Under the act, if DNA evidence is collected before the original period for commencing prosecution of the related crime expires and the evidence is not matched with an identified individual until after the original period expires, the state may commence prosecution within one year after making the match.
- Makes postconviction DNA testing a priority for the state crime laboratories and allows the state crime laboratories to contract for postconviction DNA testing.

Act 271 (AB-708) increases the maximum penalty to life imprisonment if a person is convicted of first-degree sexual assault and has one or more prior convictions for first-degree sexual assault.

Act 275 (SB-569) requires that people convicted of fourth-degree sexual assault or various indecent exposure crimes provide a DNA sample to the Department of Justice (DOJ). The act further requires DOJ to include DNA profiles from these offenders in its database of DNA profiles from felony offenders.

Act 276 (AB-47) eliminates all time limits for commencing prosecution for a first-degree sexual assault of a child.

Act 430 (AB-784) requires a 25-year minimum term of incarceration if a person is convicted of sexual intercourse with a person under the age of 12, or under the age of 16 if force or violence is used or threatened. The act requires a five-year minimum term of incarceration if the person is convicted of sexual contact with a person who is under the age of 16 and if force or violence is used or threatened.

Act 436 (SB-526) makes it second-degree sexual assault to have sexual contact or intercourse with a person who is under the influence of an intoxicant, which includes any alcohol beverage, controlled substance, or other drug, to a degree that renders the person incapable of giving consent if the actor knows that the person is incapable of giving consent and intends to have sexual contact or intercourse with the person while he or she is incapable of giving consent.

Discrimination

Act 354 (SB-157) makes changes to the public accommodations law to conform that law to regulations promulgated under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

Domestic Relations

Act 130 (SB-112) standardizes the general procedural and jurisdictional requirements for interstate child custody matters, including legal custody, physical placement, and visitation.

Act 342 (AB-526) requires a court in an action affecting the family to order a parent who is required to provide health insurance coverage for his or her child to provide a health insurance identification card that evidences the child's health insurance coverage to the child's other parent.

Education*Higher Education*

Act 77 (AB-27) authorizes the Board of Regents of the UW System to establish a gift certificate program for the payment of tuition.

Act 468 (SB-613) exempts certain veterans from tuition and fees at the UW System and at technical colleges.

Primary and Secondary Education

Act 62 (AB-425) requires a school board annually to notify the parent of each pupil enrolled in the school district of the right to request a school and school district performance report, to provide the report to the parent upon request, and to post the report on the district's Internet site.



Floor debate provides an opportunity for the minority party to make itself heard. Senator Joseph Leibham, of Sheboygan, takes advantage of this opportunity. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Act 125 (*SB-618*) makes several changes in the laws governing the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP), and the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) program, under which a school district enters into a five-year contract with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to reduce class size to 15 in grades kindergarten to 3 in exchange for receiving additional state aid. The changes include:

- Increasing the number of pupils allowed to participate in the MPCP from approximately 15,000 to 22,500.
- Allowing a pupil to continue to participate even if his or her family's income increases from 1.75 to up to 2.2 times the federal poverty level.
- Eliminating the requirements under former law that, in order to participate, a pupil had to be enrolled in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), enrolled in grades kindergarten to 3 in a private school located in Milwaukee, or not enrolled in school in the previous school year.
- Requiring each private school participating in the MPCP to become accredited within three years.
- Requiring the participating private schools to administer standardized tests in reading, mathematics, and science, and requiring the Legislative Audit Bureau to analyze the test results and report the results to the legislature annually from 2007 to 2011.
- Increasing the amount paid per pupil in the SAGE program from \$2,000 to \$2,250 beginning in the 2007-08 school year.

Act 341 (*AB-309*) requires a school district that provides instruction in human sexuality, reproduction, family planning, AIDS, prenatal development, childbirth, adoption, available prenatal and postnatal support, or male and female responsibility to provide instruction in marriage and family responsibility in the same course.

Act 445 (*SB-286*) requires that instruction in public schools related to human sexuality, reproduction, family planning, HIV, prenatal development, childbirth, or adoption must present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relationship to all sexual activity

for unmarried pupils and must emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Elections

Act 92 (*AB-627*) requires electronic voting systems to produce a permanent paper record of votes cast by each elector that is verifiable by the elector and requires this record to be used in recounts. The act also permits access to electronic voting system software components under certain conditions.

Act 333 (*AB-64*) provides for uniform statewide polling hours.

Act 451 (*SB-612*) makes extensive changes to election laws including registration, absentee balloting, voting procedures, canvassing, and recount procedures. The act creates uniform identification requirements for certain voter registrations; changes the deadline for registrations other than in person; changes the deadline for certain electors to request absentee ballots by mail; permits the ballots of military electors to be counted in some cases even if they are received after election day; changes procedures for training of election officials; changes canvassing and recount procedures when machine-readable ballots are used; establishes procedures for verification of whether electors are ineligible to vote as a result of a felony conviction; and prohibits voter registration deputies from being compensated at a rate that varies with the number of registrations obtained.

Eminent Domain

Act 233 (*AB-657*) prohibits most entities with the power of condemnation from acquiring property that is not blighted by condemnation if the entity intends to convey or lease the acquired property to a private entity.

Employment

Act 12 (*AB-49*) prohibits a city, village, town, or county from enacting a local minimum wage ordinance.

Act 86 (*SB-426*) makes numerous changes in unemployment insurance laws. The act increases benefit rates, changes electronic reporting requirements for employers, and changes the treatment of employee absenteeism and tardiness and business transfers.

Act 350 (*AB-383*) requires state agencies to conduct a criminal history background check before offering employment to an applicant for a state government position that involves fiduciary responsibility.

Environment

Act 123 (*SB-646*) expands the program that provides compensation to help fix or replace contaminated wells so that some individuals whose wells are contaminated by bacteria from livestock waste are eligible.

Health and Social Services

Health

Act 482 (*AB-290*) prohibits requiring an individual to undergo the implanting of a microchip.

Medical Assistance

Act 25 (*AB-100*) makes several changes to the Medical Assistance laws including making an unborn child eligible for coverage of prenatal care under BadgerCare if the unborn child's mother and her family satisfy the program's eligibility requirements, except that the unborn child's mother need not be a U.S. citizen or an alien qualifying for Medicaid; she may be an inmate in a public institution; and, if she is not a U.S. citizen or an alien qualifying for Medicaid, she need not provide a social security number.

Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse

Act 264 (*AB-785*) recodifies the statutes concerning protective placements and protective services for individuals who are adjudicated incompetent or for minors aged 14 or older who are alleged to be developmentally disabled.

Act 387 (*SB-391*) modifies the standards and procedures for court appointments of guardians or conservators for individuals alleged to be incompetent, spendthrifts, or minors. The act:

- Changes the standard for a finding of incompetence and appointment of a guardian of the person or of the estate; clarifies the grounds on which a court may dismiss a guardianship petition; and requires a court to consider numerous matters in appointing certain guardians, in limiting the exercise of rights of individuals found incompetent, and in determining powers appropriate for a guardian.
- Specifies the requirements for all hearings under the guardianship laws and specifies the duties and powers of a guardian, guardian of the estate, and guardian of the person.
- Expands the circumstances under which a court must appoint a guardian ad litem, expands prohibitions on the appointment of certain persons as guardians ad litem, and expands the duties of a guardian ad litem.
- Establishes standards for the appointment of a temporary guardian, standby guardian, or a limited guardian of property, and for receipt and acceptance of a foreign guardianship.
- Establishes requirements for postappointment matters, including inventories, accounts, reviews of incompetency, termination of guardianship, review of a guardian's conduct, and guardian compensation and reimbursement.

Act 434 (*SB-318*) makes changes to the laws governing sexually violent persons, including changes to the commitment and discharge procedures and changes to the supervised release procedures.

Public Assistance

Act 15 (*AB-438*) increases funding for the Senior Care Program, under which DHFS reimburses pharmacists and pharmacies for prescription drugs purchased at low rates by persons enrolled in the program.

Public Health

Act 348 (*AB-454*) exempts potluck events from the public health regulation of restaurants.

Local Law

Act 6 (*SB-83*) makes a number of technical changes to the tax incremental financing (TIF) law and changes how to calculate the maximum amount of a city's or village's territory that may be part of a TIF district.

Act 40 (*AB-79*) authorizes a city or village to abolish its police department and contract for law enforcement services with a county.

Act 139 (*AB-536*) generally prohibits a register of deeds from recording certain instruments that contain a social security number.

Natural Resources

Fish and Game

Act 25 (*AB-100*) makes changes in the laws relating to fish and game including:

- Increasing the wildlife damage surcharge, which is a surcharge on the issuance of hunting licenses and is used to prevent wildlife damage to crops.
- Decreasing hunting license fees, but with the increase in the wildlife damage surcharge the total amount paid for most hunting licenses remains the same.

Act 286 (*AB-609*) permits the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to regulate the transportation, possession, and disposal of the carcass of a deer to control chronic wasting disease.

Navigable Waters and Boating

Act 308 (*AB-934*) exempts the operator of a patrol boat who is responding to an emergency or pursuing a person suspected of violating the law from certain boating laws and ordinances when a siren or emergency light is activated. The act also requires emergency lights used by patrol boats to meet certain design standards.

Act 356 (*AB-248*) requires a person who is 16 or older and who is born after January 1, 1989, to complete a boating safety course to operate a motorboat or a personal watercraft. Under former law, any person who was 16 or older was exempt from this requirement.

Parks and Recreation

Act 25 (AB-100) increases the fees imposed on vehicles entering state parks and certain other state recreational areas and increases camping fees for state campgrounds.

Occupational Regulation

Act 187 (AB-683) authorizes advanced practice nurse prescribers to perform certain medically related actions that only physicians were formerly allowed to perform.

Public Utilities

Act 25 (AB-100) imposes limits on the late payment fees that telecommunications utilities may charge retail customers and requires telecommunications utilities to identify on customer bills the amounts by which local exchange rates are increased for the utilities to make contributions to the Universal Service Fund.

Act 141 (SB-459) requires investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities to contract for the administration of statewide energy efficiency and renewable resource programs. Under former law, the Department of Administration (DOA) contracted for the administration of such programs. Under the act, the utilities must spend 1.2 percent of their annual revenues on such programs or, subject to the approval of the Joint Committee on Finance, a greater percentage specified by the Public Service Commission (PSC). Under former law, the programs were funded by fees paid by utility customers. The act also makes changes to the “renewable portfolio standard,” which requires electric utilities and cooperatives to ensure that specified percentages of the electricity they sell to customers is derived from renewable resources or to obtain credits from utilities and cooperatives that have complied with the standard. Under the act, with certain exceptions, electric utilities and cooperatives must increase the amount of renewable energy sold according to a schedule that results in a 6 percent increase over their current sales by 2015. In addition, the act makes changes to the requirements for obtaining credits. The act also does the following:

- Prohibits the PSC from imposing additional energy efficiency or renewable resource requirements on utilities that satisfy the requirements described above.



The Finish Line: Bill signing ceremonies mark the satisfaction of a job well done. Legislative leaders gather around Governor Jim Doyle as he signs January 2007 Special Session Senate Bill 1, which modified state ethics laws. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

- Requires DOA to set goals for certain state agencies that ensure that, by 2011, 20 percent of the energy used by the agencies is derived from renewable resources.
- Requires DOA to establish energy standards for state building projects and equipment purchases.

Real Estate

Act 281 (AB-291) expands, to any law enforcement agency of the state and any district attorney's office, the authority to notify the owner of a rental unit that the rental unit is a nuisance because it is being used to facilitate the delivery, distribution, or manufacture of a controlled substance or is being used to facilitate the activities of a criminal gang and extends immunity from suit for providing such a notice. A property owner who receives a notice may terminate the tenancy with written notice to the tenant. Under former law, only the law enforcement agency of a city, town, or village could provide the notice to the property owner.

Act 421 (SB-616) adopts the Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act, which generally authorizes a register of deeds to accept for recording a document received in electronic form and specifies that documents received in electronic form and electronic signatures satisfy requirements for paper documents and signatures on documents.

State Government

Act 391 (SB-478) changes the methods for the approval of state building projects and contracts and the bidding requirements for such contracts.

Act 467 (SB-655) creates a special joint legislative committee on strengthening Wisconsin's families.

Taxation

Act 49 (SB-218) makes several changes in the laws related to taxation including:

- Providing that a property owner may appeal a determination related to the assessment of the person's property by filing a notice of appeal within 15 days from the determination date.
- Providing that a qualified retirement fund for federal income tax purposes is a qualified retirement fund for state income tax purposes.

Act 349 (AB-129) provides that property tax payments are not late if the taxpayer makes the payment within five working days after the due date.

Act 454 (AB-538) allows the Department of Revenue (DOR) to withhold a person's tax refund to pay the person's delinquent property taxes.

Act 483 (SB-563) creates income and franchise tax credits for expenses related to film production services and for capital investments made by a film production company.

Transportation

Driving Privileges

Act 126 (AB-69) requires a person to submit proof of legal presence in the state before he or she may acquire a driver's license or an identification card.

Highways and Local Assistance

Act 464 (SB-548) allows certain outdoor advertising signs to contain messages on rotating louvers or formed by digital or light displays if each change of message takes one second or less and each message remains for at least six seconds.

Act 465 (AB-967) authorizes the Department of Transportation (DOT) to issue permits to outdoor advertising sign owners for the trimming, removal, or relocation of vegetation that is located in the highway right-of-way and that, under specified criteria, obstructs the view of the sign from the highway.

Impaired Driving

Act 8 (AB-92) allows a court to consider, in any drunken driving hearing, the fact that a person had a prohibited blood alcohol concentration to be prima facie evidence that the person was under the influence of an intoxicant.



The Speaker pro tempore presides over the Assembly when the speaker is unavailable. Representative Mark Gottlieb, of Port Washington, was elected to fill that role in 2007. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Motor Vehicles

Act 397 (AB-1078) changes the standards for licensing, testing, and regulating driver education schools and driver education instructors.

Traffic and Parking Regulation

Act 106 (AB-618) requires that children under the age of eight, while being transported in a motor vehicle, be restrained as follows:

- If the child is less than one year old or weighs less than 20 pounds, the child must be in a rear-facing child safety seat in the back seat.
- If the child is between one and four years old and weighs between 20 and 40 pounds, the child must be in a forward-facing child safety seat in the back seat.
- If the child is between four and eight years old, weighs between 40 and 80 pounds, and is four feet nine inches tall or less, the child must be in a child booster seat.
- If the child is under the age of eight and exceeds the weight or height limits for children between four and eight years old, the child must use a seat belt (as under preexisting law).

The act removes an exception to the child safety restraint requirement that allowed a person to temporarily remove a child from a child safety seat to attend to the child's personal needs. The act also extends the passenger seat belt requirement to all passengers in the vehicle age eight or older who are in seating positions with seat belts.

Act 466 (SB-528) allows a person operating a motorcycle, moped, motor bicycle, or bicycle facing a red traffic signal at an intersection, after stopping for at least 45 seconds, to proceed through the intersection before the signal turns green under certain circumstances. The act requires driver education courses to include information on motorcycle, pedestrian, and bicycle awareness.

Other Transportation

Act 25 (AB-100) requires DOT to transfer \$427 million from the transportation fund to the general fund in the 2005-07 fiscal biennium.

Act 85 (SB-331), beginning on July 1, 2007, prohibits moneys deposited into the transportation fund from being transferred to another fund or appropriated for other than specified purposes.

Act 322 (*SB-386*), with exceptions, provides immunity from civil liability to technicians who inspect, install, fit, or adjust child safety seats in vehicles, or who provide related safety assistance or advice, and to certain organizations that participate in related safety programs.

Act 335 (*SB-352*) creates the Wisconsin Aerospace Authority (WAA), which is authorized to design, develop, and operate spaceports, aerospace facilities, and spacecraft, as well as develop and operate or provide related programs, projects, and services. The WAA must promote the aerospace industry in this state, provide aerospace services, information, and business opportunities in this state, and coordinate public and private efforts to promote space-related industry.

Veterans and Military Affairs

Act 25 (*AB-100*) makes a number of changes in the laws regarding veterans, including:

- Allows spouses, surviving spouses, and children of veterans to receive full academic fee remission at the UW System and the Technical College System if the veteran was a resident at the time of entry into the armed forces and died in service or incurred a service-connected disability of 30 percent or more.
- Provides a remission equal to 100 percent of nonresident tuition and 50 percent of academic fees at the UW System and a 50 percent fee remission at the Technical College System to a veteran who was a resident at the time of entry into the armed forces and who served on active duty during certain wars or crises who was discharged due to a service-connected disability or a reduction in forces.
- Provides tuition reimbursement for classes at a college or university or at an approved school, proprietary school, or high school to veterans with incomes under \$50,000 who were residents at the time of entry into the armed forces and for at least 12 months before applying for the reimbursement.

Act 37 (*SB-193*) requires the governor annually to proclaim January 17 as “Gulf War Illnesses Recognition Day” to honor veterans who suffer illnesses as the result of service in the Gulf War.

Act 459 (*AB-958*) grants civil liability immunity to persons who provide equipment, services, and other assistance under the direction of certain public officials, in response to a disaster, federally declared emergency, or emergency declared by the governor.

MAJOR PROPOSALS THAT FAILED ENACTMENT OR ADOPTION

Buildings and Safety

Assembly Bill 15 would have required that most automotive gasoline contain not less than 9.2 percent nor more than 10 percent ethanol.

Assembly Bill 414 and *Senate Bill 202* would have prohibited the designation of smoking areas in most restaurants, regulated smoking in bowling centers, and required that local ordinances that regulate smoking strictly conform with state law.

Business and Consumer Law

Senate Bill 55 would have increased the number of economic development zones the Department of Commerce may designate without the approval of the Joint Committee on Finance.

Constitutional Amendments

Assembly Joint Resolution 77 and *Senate Joint Resolution 63* would have limited the amount of revenue that the state and certain local governmental units could collect in any year, required excess revenue to be deposited into an emergency reserve fund or returned to taxpayers, and required the state to reimburse local governmental units for the reasonable costs of complying with state mandates.

Courts and Civil Actions

Senate Bill 402 would have granted civil immunity to manufacturers, sellers, and others for damages resulting from the design, manufacture, or sale of a product if the injured party could not prove that the manufacturer, seller, or other person manufactured, sold, or distributed the specific product that caused the injury.

Assembly Bill 766 would have established a limit on noneconomic damages in medical malpractice cases of \$550,000 for a person less than 18 years of age at the time of the injury and \$450,000 for all other persons.

Crime and Criminal Procedure

Assembly Bill 499 would have prohibited human cloning and parthenogenesis.

Assembly Bill 763 and *Senate Bill 403* would have permitted persons to be licensed to carry concealed weapons.

Education

Assembly Bill 84 would have eliminated the requirement that public school be held for at least 180 days each school year.

Assembly Bill 1060 would have provided that, in a virtual charter school (a charter school in which instruction is provided primarily through means of the Internet), only the persons who assign grades or credits to pupils need to be licensed as teachers by DPI.

Elections

Assembly Bill 63 and *Senate Bill 42* would have required most voters to present one of three specified forms of identification to vote or to register to vote at the polls on election day.

Assembly Bill 226, *Assembly Bill 392*, and *Senate Bill 46* would have made extensive changes to campaign finance and related laws.

Senate Bill 1 would have merged the Elections Board and the Ethics Board and changed the way that the elections, ethics, and lobbying regulation laws are enforced.

Employment

Assembly Bill 860 and *Senate Bill 440* would have required DHFS to impose on any private-sector employer employing 10,000 or more employees in this state that does not provide health care coverage for all of its employees an assessment equal to the cost incurred by society as a result of not providing that coverage and to deposit those assessments in the Medical Assistance Trust Fund.



Senator Bob Jauch, of Poplar, is a member of the Joint Committee on Finance and cochairs the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules. He is serving his 11th session as a state senator.
(Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Gambling

Assembly Bill 461 would have required legislative approval to locate an Indian gaming establishment on off-reservation land that the federal government places in trust for an American Indian tribe after 1988.

Natural Resources

Assembly Bill 586 would have made various changes to the laws regulating hunting and firearm possession by persons under the age of 16, including reducing, under certain circumstances, the minimum hunting age from 12 years of age to 10 years of age.

Assembly Bill 850 would have granted the owners of certain structures placed in navigable waters, including piers set in place before a specified date, an exemption from the general requirement to obtain a permit from DNR authorizing the placement of those structures.

Occupational Regulation

Assembly Bill 207 would have prohibited the Board of Nursing, the Medical Examining Board, and the Pharmacy Examining Board from disciplining health care practitioners for refusing to participate in certain acts, such as sterilizations, abortions, certain procedures involving in vitro human embryos or fetal tissue, causing death by withholding or withdrawing nutrition or hydration, or euthanasia, and would have provided immunity from civil liability for damages caused by such refusals.

Transportation

Assembly Bill 509 would have eliminated the immunity exception under which villages, cities, towns, or counties may be held liable for damages caused by an insufficiency or lack of repairs on a highway.



Army Specialist Grant Dampier, of Merrill, was killed in Iraq in 2006. The legislature extended its condolences to the family on April 24, 2007. Speaker Mike Huebsch presented his family with a flag and a plaque in his honor. (Brent Nicastro, Legislative Photographer)