



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 3

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SEPTAGE DISPOSAL

FROM: Mark C. Patronsky, Senior Staff Attorney, and John Stolzenberg, Chief of Research Services

RE: Draft Legislation Prepared for the Special Committee

DATE: November 9, 2004

The Special Committee discussed a variety of issues related to septage disposal at its meeting on October 14, 2004, and gave the Special Committee's staff directions to prepare bill drafts based on those discussions. These bill drafts will form the basis of discussion by the Special Committee at its meeting on November 16, 2004. This Memo contains some general comments about the bill drafts.

These bill drafts reflect our understanding as staff of the discussion by the Special Committee. Everything in these drafts is subject to further discussion and modification, followed by either approval or rejection by the Special Committee.

Eight individual bill drafts have been prepared to simplify the discussion of the bill drafts by the Special Committee. The bill drafts each correspond to a portion of Memo No. 1, and the part of Memo No. 1 that relates to each bill draft is shown in a "comment" at the beginning of each bill draft. However, study committees typically combine all individual bill drafts into a single bill draft for the final committee recommendation, unless there is a specific reason to recommend two or more separate bill drafts. The decision on the final number and contents of bill drafts is another decision the Special Committee must make.

The purpose of each bill draft is to modify the statutes, either by amending or repealing existing statutes, or creating new statutes. The treatment of the current statutes is shown in the individual SECTIONS of each bill draft. Where a SECTION amends an existing statute, the deleted statutory language will be shown with a ~~striketrough~~ and new language is shown with an underline. Where a SECTION creates new statutory language, the new language is shown without strikethroughs or underlines. SECTIONS are presented in ascending order of the affected statutes by statute number and not in order of the importance of the content of the SECTION.

Joint Legislative Council special committees are authorized by statute to include explanatory notes within bill drafts that are introduced by the Joint Legislative Council. This provides the Special Committee an opportunity to explain its intent in making the recommendations, and to make the bill draft easier to read and understand. Special Committee members should review the notes carefully to be sure that the notes in fact reflect the intent of the Special Committee. The notes can also be discussed by the Special Committee at its November meeting and changes or additions can be made based on that discussion.

In addition to the individual SECTION notes, each final bill draft will include a prefatory note. This prefatory note will contain a very brief summary of all of the individual provisions in the bill draft. The prefatory note will be in addition to the detailed explanation contained in the individual SECTION notes.

The “comments” included in a bill draft are not intended to be included in the final recommendation of the Special Committee. These comments are used by the committee staff to provide background information and to convey information to the Special Committee about decisions that have been made by staff in preparing the bill draft or decisions that need to be made by the Special Committee. The comments will be deleted from the final recommendation of the Special Committee.

It is likely that the Special Committee will make a number of recommendations for changes to these bill drafts at the November meeting. Following the conclusion of the November meeting, staff will make the requested changes and prepare the final bill draft or drafts. The staff will then submit the final bill draft or drafts to Special Committee members for approval by mail ballot.

We understand the effort that is involved in reading and understanding bill drafts. If there is anything we can do to assist Special Committee members in reviewing these bill drafts, please feel free to contact us.

MCP:JES:jal