



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

BUILDING WISCONSIN'S WORKFORCE

Legislative Council Conference Room
Madison, Wisconsin

November 19, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

[The following is a summary of the November 19, 2008 meeting of the Special Committee on Building Wisconsin's Workforce. The file copy of this summary has appended to it a copy of each document prepared for or submitted to the committee during the meeting. A digital recording of the meeting is available on our Web site at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc>.]

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Strachota called the meeting to order. The roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Pat Strachota, Chair; Sen. Robert Wirth, Vice Chair; Sens. Alberta Darling and Robert Jauch; Reps. Gordon Hintz and Mark Honadel; and Public Members Jim Golembeski, John Keckhaver, Steve Mercaitis, Peter Thillman, Carol Wagenson, and Judy Warmuth.

COMMITTEE MEMBER EXCUSED: Public Member Mark Kessenich.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: Scott Grosz and Jessica Karls, Staff Attorneys.

APPEARANCES: Janice Mueller, State Auditor, and Paul Stuibier, Deputy State Auditor for Program Evaluation, Legislative Audit Bureau.

Approval of the Minutes of the Committee's October 22, 2008 Meeting

Mr. Mercaitis moved, seconded by Mr. Golembeski, that the minutes of the October 22, 2008 meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Presentation by Invited Speakers

[Note: PowerPoint presentations and other documents referred to by the speakers are posted on the committee's Internet site.]

Janice Mueller, State Auditor, and Paul Stuiber, Deputy State Auditor for Program Evaluation, Legislative Audit Bureau.

Janice Mueller described the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) and the process by which the Joint Committee on Audit requests audits. She explained the different types of audits that the LAB may conduct, including program evaluation audits. She described the recent economic development audit, which covered economic development programs in multiple state agencies, and she noted that a working group was created to address the issues raised in that audit.

Paul Stuiber indicated that if the Wisconsin Works program is excluded, the last comprehensive audit of workforce development programs was in 1994. That audit covered 12 agencies and 101 programs and took approximately one year to complete. He noted that state government has been reorganized since 1994 and that there have been changes in federal programs and funding. He described how the committee could request a broad focus for the audit, but could also request an audit with a more narrow focus to be completed in the short term.

Ms. Mueller and Mr. Stuiber responded to questions from committee members. In her responses, Ms. Mueller described how Governor Tommy Thompson used the 1994 audit to persuade the federal government to make changes in federal law. She also noted that the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Audit decide whether to pursue an audit and that the LAB prepares a scope statement for a proposed audit.

Discussion of Committee Assignment

Audit of Workforce Development Programs

Scott Grosz explained the letter to the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Audit. Committee members discussed the content of the letter and the need for the audit. Mr. Grosz suggested some additional language that could be added to the letter to clarify the committee's intent.

Ms. Warmuth moved, seconded by Mr. Thillman, that the committee approve the letter to the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Audit. The motion passed on a vote of Ayes, 12 (Strachota, Wirch, Darling, Jauch, Hintz, Honadel, Golembeski, Keckhaver, Mercaitis, Thillman, Wagenson, and Warmuth); Noes, 0; and Absent, 1 (Kessenich).

Ms. Warmuth moved, seconded by Mr. Mercaitis, that if the Legislative Audit Bureau is directed by the Joint Committee on Audit to conduct an audit of workforce development programs, the committee recommend that the Joint Legislative Council reappoint a study committee after the audit is completed to address any issues raised in the audit. The motion passed on a vote of Ayes, 11 (Strachota, Wirch, Darling, Hintz, Honadel, Golembeski, Keckhaver, Mercaitis, Thillman, Wagenson, and Warmuth); Noes, 1 (Jauch); and Absent, 1 (Kessenich).

Memo No. 1, Potential Recommendations Submitted for Consideration by Committee Members (September 23, 2008)

Committee members discussed parts G to I of Memo No. 1, *Potential Recommendations Submitted for Consideration by Committee Members*.

Jessica Karls described the material that was distributed to committee members, including information about the 2009-11 budget requests of the University of Wisconsin (UW) System, Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), and Department of Commerce. She then described the letter to Secretary Roberta Gassman, Department of Workforce Development (DWD), that sets forth the committee's recommendations regarding: (1) long-term care workforce needs; and (2) credentialing and certification. Chair Strachota asked that the letter be split into two letters to DWD, with one focusing on long-term care workforce needs and the other focusing on credentialing and certification.

Remedial Education

Ms. Karls described an article titled *Post Secondary Remedial Education*, published by the National Conference of State Legislatures. Committee members heard comments from representatives of the UW System, Department of Public Instruction (DPI), WTCS, and Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) about remedial education, including comments about the current efforts to report information about remedial education to school districts. Chair Strachota suggested that the committee encourage the communication between the UW System, DPI, WTCS, and WAICU regarding remedial education.

WLC: 0126/2, Relating to Requiring an Additional Credit in Mathematics for a High School Diploma

Ms. Karls explained WLC: 0126/2, relating to requiring an additional credit in mathematics for a high school diploma. She noted that this draft is different from the prior draft in two ways. First, WLC: 0126/2 includes a comment about flexibility in course options that count for a mathematics credit. Second, the requirement in WLC: 0126/2 first applies to pupils who graduate from high school in 2015.

Committee members then discussed the bill draft, including the intent and goals of the committee in requiring three credits of mathematics and whether the bill draft meets the intent and goals. Chair Strachota noted that the committee had not appeared to reach a consensus on the issue of requiring three mathematics credits and decided not to vote on the bill draft at that time.

WLC: 0203/2, Relating to an Annual Report to the Legislature Regarding the Transfer of Credits Between Educational Institutions

Chair Strachota indicated that the committee would not pursue action on WLC: 0203/2, relating to an annual report to the legislature regarding the transfer of credits between educational institutions. She noted that the recommendation could be made in a letter format, rather than by statutory change.

WLC: 0283/1, Relating to Collection of Workforce Data in State-Licensed Nursing Professions

Mr. Grosz explained WLC: 0283/1, relating to collection of workforce data in state-licensed nursing professions.

Sen. Wirch moved, seconded by Rep. Honadel, that the committee recommend that the WLC: 0283/1, relating to collection of workforce data in state-licensed nursing professions, be recommended to the Joint Legislative Council for introduction in the 2009-10 Legislature. The motion passed on a vote of Ayes, 12 (Strachota, Wirch, Darling, Jauch, Hintz, Honadel, Golembeski, Keckhaver, Mercaitis, Thillman, Wagenson, and Warmuth); Noes, 0; and Absent, 1 (Kessenich).

Lifelong Learning Accounts

Mr. Grosz explained how the administration of and incentives in lifelong learning accounts (LiLAs) vary by state. He noted that current state law contains a tax deduction for educational expenses.

Committee members discussed what type of tax incentives to offer for LiLAs and other administrative issues, as well as the impact of future federal LiLA legislation. Chair Strachota indicated that the committee must consider the fiscal effect of any proposed LiLA legislation and that a bill draft will be prepared for the next meeting.

Other Business

There was no other business brought before the committee.

Plans for Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Special Committee will be ***Tuesday, December 9, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., in the Legislative Council Conference Room, One East Main Street, Suite 401, Madison.***

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

JK:ksm