



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 1

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

FROM: Richard Sweet and Pam Shannon, Senior Staff Attorneys

RE: Issues for Consideration by the Special Committee

DATE: November 5, 2008

This Memo provides a brief listing of issues that have been suggested to the Special Committee either by members of the committee itself or by persons testifying before the committee. The Memo is not intended to be an exhaustive discussion of each of these items, but rather a listing from which the committee may determine how to proceed in making recommendations.

1. Wisconsin Disaster Fund (appropriation level, staffing level, limitation to natural disasters, and review of eligible and ineligible costs).
2. Public works mutual aid, including compensation (2007 Assembly Bill 736 and 2007 Senate Bill 423).
3. Funding of urban search and rescue regional teams.
4. Provision of school aids for days when school is closed by the state health department.
5. Ability of local units of government to provide funding in cases of emergency, including levy limits issues.
6. State aid for dam repair and replacement.
7. Recodification of ch. 166, Stats.
8. Issues related to use of volunteers during emergencies, including liability and licensure issues.
9. Use of emergency interim successors for legislators.

10. Alternative means and locations of meeting for the Legislature during emergencies.
11. Review of regional hazardous materials teams.
12. Staffing needs of Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM).
13. Coordination between WEM and the Office of Justice Assistance in field training for local responders and emergency management coordinators.
14. Review of state infrastructure, including dams, highways, and bridges.
15. Homeland Security grants, including the ability of local units of government to raise matching funding, distribution of state-of-the-art radios and other equipment, and radio system uniformity and compatibility.
16. Review of Wisconsin's lack of status as a coastline state as determined by the Department of Homeland Security.
17. Education and public information about the damage assessment process, including a potential template for local units of government.
18. Status of the Interoperability Council.
19. Rural county and regional challenges that are unique, including difficulties in meeting federal standards in rural areas due to limited or sparse resources.
20. Applicability of provisions of ch. 166, Stats., including provisions on mutual aid, to tribes and tribal agencies.
21. Forcible removal of individuals from their homes during emergencies.
22. School shootings.
23. Better use of regional planning for emergencies, including ensuring that all preparedness partners are involved.
24. Waivers of requirements during emergencies, including provision of payments to health care providers who experience catastrophic costs, requirements for guardianship during a public health emergency, limitations on the number of licensed beds in health care facilities during a public health emergency, and changes related to managed care reimbursement to health care providers during a public health emergency.

RNS:jal:ty