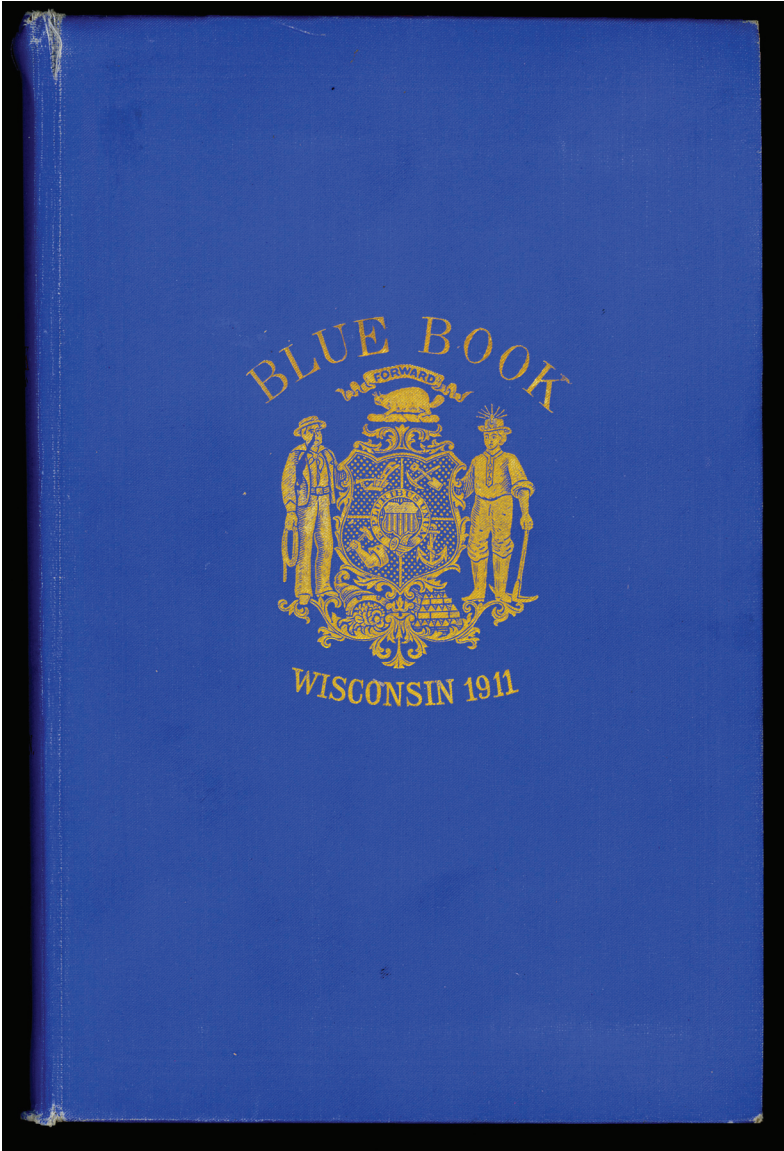


Legislative Branch

The legislative branch: profile of the legislative branch, description of the legislative process, summary of 2009-10 legislation, and description of legislative committees and service agencies

1911 Blue Book



OFFICERS OF THE 2011 LEGISLATURE

SENATE

President Senator Michael G. Ellis
 President pro tempore Senator Joseph K. Leibham
 Chief clerk Honorable Robert J. Marchant
 Sergeant at arms Honorable Edward A. Blazel

Majority Party Officers

Minority Party Officers

Leader	Senator Scott L. Fitzgerald	Senator Mark Miller
Assistant leader	Senator Glenn Grothman	Senator Dave Hansen
Caucus chairperson	Senator Daniel E. Kapanke	Senator Julie M. Lassa
Caucus vice chairperson	Senator Sheila E. Harsdorf	Senator Kathleen Vinehout

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 Jeff Fitzgerald
 Speaker pro tempore Representative Bill Kramer
 Chief clerk Honorable Patrick E. Fuller
 Sergeant at arms Honorable Anne Tonnon Byers

Majority Party Officers

Minority Party Officers

Leader	Representative Scott Suder	Representative Peter W. Barca
Assistant leader	Representative Dan Knodl	Representative Donna J. Seidel
Caucus chairperson	Representative Joan Ballweg	Representative Kelda Helen Roys
Caucus vice chairperson	Representative John Murtha	Representative Fred Clark
Caucus secretary	Representative Mary Williams	Representative Penny Bernard Schaber
Caucus sergeant at arms	Representative Samantha Kerkman	Representative Josh Zepnick

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

Sergeant at Arms: Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8952, Madison 53708-8952; Location: 411 West, State Capitol; Telephone: (608) 266-1503.

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

LEGISLATIVE INTERNET ADDRESS: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>

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 2011 Legislature is the 100th Wisconsin Legislature. It convened on January 3, 2011, and will continue until January 7, 2013.

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 2011 Legislature: Senate: 33 members, 202 employees (including senators); Assembly: 99 members, 317 employees (including representatives).

Total Budget 2009-11: \$147,735,500 (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.

Political Parties in the Legislative Process. Partisan political organizations play an important role in the Wisconsin legislative process. Since 1949, all legislators, with rare exceptions, 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.

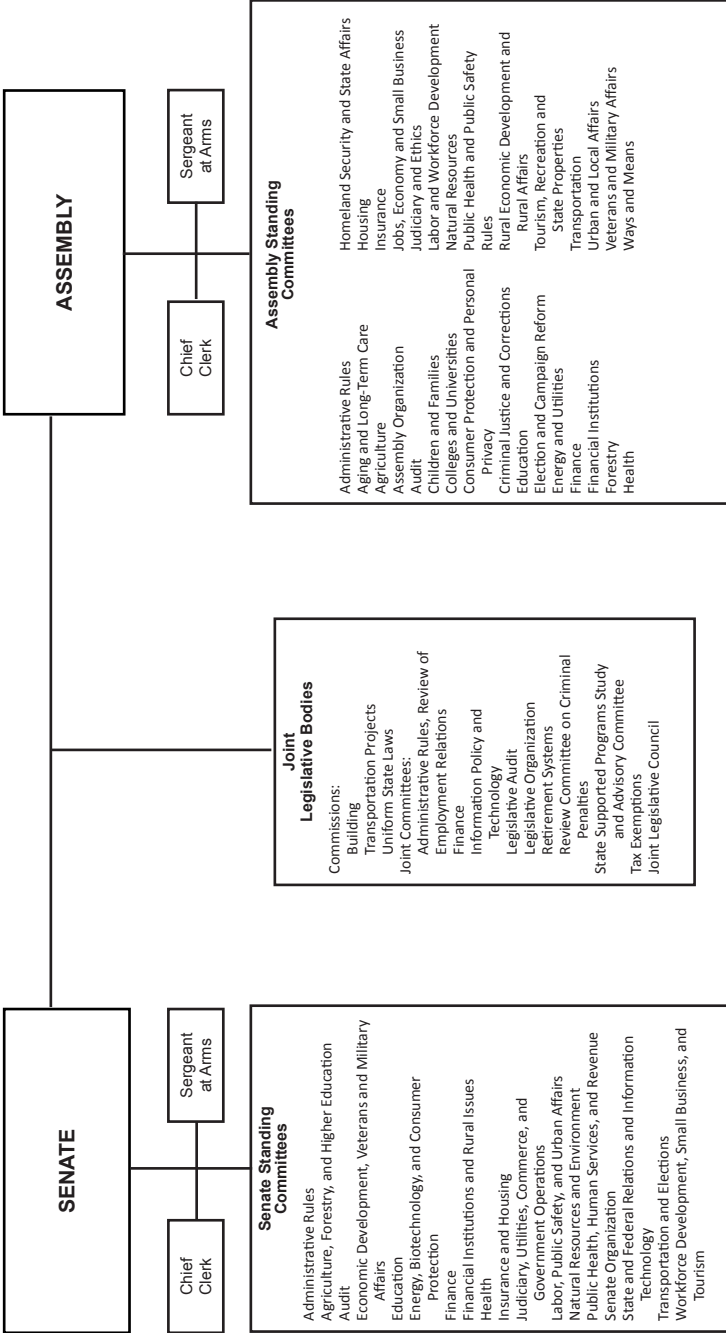
Party organization in the legislature is based on the party group called the “caucus”. In each house, all members of a particular political party form that party’s caucus. Thus, there are four caucuses related to the party divisions in the two houses. The primary purpose of a caucus is to help party 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.

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

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE





The presiding officer of a legislative body is charged with ensuring decorum in debate and a smooth work flow at the final stage of the legislative process. Senate President Mike Ellis discusses the day's calendar with President pro Tempore Joe Leibham (right). (Ting-Li Wang, Legislative Photographer)

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 2011 Legislature convened on January 3, 2011, all members were eligible for a salary of \$49,943 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 or interstate agency or when specifically authorized to attend meetings of such agencies as nonmembers. 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 might reconvene from time to time in the remainder of the year, 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 session was over even though only a portion of its two-year term had elapsed, 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 2011-2012 session schedule, for example, is structured around 14 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

2011-2012 SESSION SCHEDULE

January 3, 2011	2011 Inauguration
January 11, 2011	Floorperiod
January 25 to February 10, 2011	Floorperiod
February 22 to 24, 2011	Floorperiod
March 8 to 10, 2011	Floorperiod
March 24, 2011	Deadline for sending bills to governor
April 5 to 14, 2011	Floorperiod
May 10 to 19, 2011	Floorperiod
June 7 to 30, 2011 (or until passage of the budget)	Floorperiod
August 4, 2011	Deadline for sending nonbudget bills to governor
August 4, 2011 (or later)	Deadline for sending budget bill to governor*
September 13 to 22, 2011	Floorperiod
October 18 to November 3, 2011	Floorperiod
December 8, 2011	Deadline for sending bills to governor
January 17 to 26, 2012	Floorperiod
February 14 to 23, 2012	Floorperiod
March 6 to 15, 2012	Last general-business floorperiod
March 22, 2012	Deadline for sending bills to governor
April 24 to May 3, 2012	Limited-business floorperiod
May 10, 2012	Deadline for sending bills to governor
May 22 and 23, 2012	Veto review floorperiod
May 24, 2012 to January 7, 2013	Interim committee work
June 13, 2012	Deadline for sending bills to governor
January 7, 2013	2013 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: 2011 Senate Joint Resolution 1.

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 2009 Legislature, there had been 88 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 issued periodically during the legislative session as needed. 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 final edition of the *Bulletin* at the end of each biennium 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 available 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 2011 Legislature, the senate has 18 standing committees, the assembly 31, 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 2011 session began amiably enough. Minority Leader Peter Barca illustrates the transfer of power to the Republicans by turning over the gavel to the incoming Speaker, Jeff Fitzgerald (left). (Ting-Li Wang, Legislative Photographer)



The Assembly's traditional opening prayer sometimes offered a rare moment of unity during the tumultuous 2011 session. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

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

**NEWS MEDIA CORRESPONDENTS
ACCREDITED TO THE 2011 LEGISLATURE
January 3, 2011**

Organization	Correspondents	Telephone
Newspaper and Wire Services		
Appleton Post-Crescent	Ben Jones	255-9256
Associated Press	Scott Bauer, Todd Richmond	255-3679
Capital Times	Judith Davidoff, Jessica VanEgeren	252-6438/252-6424
Capitol News Service	Stan Milam	(608) 774-8584
Isthmus	Emily Mills	251-5627
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel	Patrick Marley, Jason Stein	258-2262/258-2274
Wheeler News Service	Thom Gerretsen	(715) 389-2373
Wheeler Reports	Gwyn Guenther, Trevor Guenther, Dick Wheeler	287-0130
Wisconsin Catholic Newspapers	John Huebscher	257-0004
Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism*	Bill Lueders	262-3642
Wisconsin State Journal	Clay Barbour, Mary Spicuzza	252-6129/252-6122
Radio and Television		
WIBA-AM and FM (Madison)	John Colbert	251-1978/274-2995/ (608) 438-6853
WISC-TV (Madison)	Jessica Arp, Colin Benedict	277-5249
WKOW-TV (Madison)	Lisa Adams, Bob Schaper	273-2727
WMTV-TV (Madison)	Ryan Lobenstein, Zac Schultz	274-1500
WNWC-FM (Madison)	Greg Walters	271-1025
WOLX-FM (Madison)	Adam Elliott	826-0077
WTDY-AM (Madison)	Zack Stein, Dustin Weis	271-1301
Wisconsin Public Radio	Shawn Johnson, Michael Leland, Shamane Mills	263-4358/263-7985
Wisconsin Public Television	Kathy Bissen, Frederica Freyberg, Christine Sloan Miller, Andy Moore, Joel Waldinger	263-2121/263-8496/ 265-6646/263-5628/ 263-7124/890-2840
Wisconsin Radio Network	Andrew Beckett, Bob Hague, Jackie Johnson, Brian Moon	251-3900
Internet News Service		
Wispolitics.com	Greg Bump, J.R. Ross, Andy Szal	441-8418

*In conjunction with Wisconsin State Journal.

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.wisconsin.gov> 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 for the current or recent sessions. 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 nxt 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 nxt on the legislature's Web site.

The legislature's home page links to individual legislator's home pages, which include 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://wiseye.com>.

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.wisconsin.gov>, users will receive daily or weekly e-mails of relevant activities.

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 is assisted by five service agencies responsible for financial and program audits, fiscal information and analysis, bill drafting, research services, statutory revision, legal counsel and policy assistance, and computer and telecommunications services.



The press and the legislature have a symbiotic relationship: the members want to get their story out, and the press wants a story. Minority Leader Peter Barca addresses an eager audience. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

2010 POPULATION OF LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS
For Districts Promulgated May 30, 2002, by the
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin¹
2010 State Population - 5,686,986

District	2010		Deviation from Ideal ²		District	2010		Deviation from Ideal ²	
	Population	Total	Percent	Total		Percent	Population	Total	Percent
SD-1	180,987	+ 8,654	+ 5.0%		SD-18	170,917	- 1,416	- 0.8%	
AD-1	54,189	+ 3,255	+ 5.7		AD-52	56,377	- 1,067	- 1.9	
AD-2	61,009	+ 3,565	+ 6.2		AD-53	59,677	+ 2,233	+ 3.9	
AD-3	65,789	+ 8,345	+ 14.5		AD-54	54,863	- 2,581	- 4.5	
SD-2	172,049	- 284	- 0.2		SD-19	175,997	+ 3,664	+ 2.1	
AD-4	54,953	+ 2,491	+ 4.3		AD-55	54,157	- 3,287	- 5.7	
AD-5	61,133	+ 3,689	+ 6.4		AD-56	67,841	+ 10,397	+ 18.1	
AD-6	55,963	- 1,481	- 2.6		AD-57	53,999	- 3,445	- 6.0	
SD-3	171,321	- 1,012	- 0.6		SD-20	176,381	+ 4,048	+ 2.3	
AD-7	55,825	+ 1,619	+ 2.8		AD-58	60,111	+ 2,667	+ 4.6	
AD-8	54,616	- 2,828	- 4.9		AD-59	58,836	+ 1,392	+ 2.4	
AD-9	60,880	+ 3,436	+ 6.0		AD-60	57,434	- 10	- 0.0	
SD-4	158,872	- 13,461	- 7.8		SD-21	166,735	- 5,598	- 3.2	
AD-10	51,419	+ 6,025	+ 10.5		AD-61	51,968	- 5,476	- 9.5	
AD-11	52,178	+ 5,266	+ 9.2		AD-62	55,886	- 1,558	- 2.7	
AD-12	55,275	- 2,169	- 3.8		AD-63	58,881	+ 1,437	+ 2.5	
SD-5	159,971	- 12,362	- 7.2		SD-22	180,019	+ 7,686	+ 4.5	
AD-13	53,867	+ 3,577	+ 6.2		AD-64	56,844	- 600	- 1.0	
AD-14	52,656	- 4,788	- 8.3		AD-65	61,608	+ 4,164	+ 7.2	
AD-15	53,448	- 3,996	- 7.0		AD-66	61,567	+ 4,123	+ 7.2	
SD-6	152,758	- 19,575	- 11.4		SD-23	176,958	+ 4,625	+ 2.7	
AD-16	52,510	+ 4,934	+ 8.6		AD-67	58,722	+ 1,278	+ 2.2	
AD-17	51,861	+ 5,583	+ 9.7		AD-68	59,129	+ 1,685	+ 2.9	
AD-18	48,387	- 9,057	- 15.8		AD-69	59,107	+ 1,663	+ 2.9	
SD-7	172,003	- 330	- 0.2		SD-24	167,083	- 5,250	- 3.0	
AD-19	56,827	+ 617	+ 1.1		AD-70	53,911	- 3,533	- 6.2	
AD-20	54,999	- 2,445	- 4.3		AD-71	57,415	- 29	- 0.1	
AD-21	60,177	+ 2,733	+ 4.8		AD-72	55,757	- 1,687	- 2.9	
SD-8	165,331	- 7,002	- 4.1		SD-25	162,546	- 9,787	- 5.7	
AD-22	53,017	+ 4,427	+ 7.7		AD-73	54,962	- 2,482	- 4.3	
AD-23	55,249	- 2,195	- 3.8		AD-74	52,623	- 4,821	- 8.4	
AD-24	57,065	- 3,79	- 0.7		AD-75	54,961	- 2,483	- 4.3	
SD-9	162,219	- 10,114	- 5.9		SD-26	168,583	- 3,750	- 2.2	
AD-25	53,380	+ 4,064	+ 7.1		AD-76	61,595	+ 4,151	+ 7.2	
AD-26	52,721	- 4,723	- 8.2		AD-77	51,957	- 5,487	- 9.6	
AD-27	56,118	- 1,326	- 2.3		AD-78	55,031	- 2,413	- 4.2	
SD-10	192,662	+ 20,329	+ 11.8		SD-27	197,815	+ 25,482	+ 14.8	
AD-28	59,273	+ 1,829	+ 3.2		AD-79	76,116	+ 18,672	+ 35.1	
AD-29	66,814	+ 9,370	+ 16.3		AD-80	60,352	+ 2,908	+ 5.5	
AD-30	66,575	+ 9,131	+ 15.9		AD-81	61,347	+ 3,903	+ 6.8	
SD-11	181,372	+ 9,039	+ 5.2		SD-28	177,466	+ 5,133	+ 3.0	
AD-31	61,767	+ 4,323	+ 7.5		AD-82	60,035	+ 2,591	+ 4.5	
AD-32	60,152	+ 2,708	+ 4.7		AD-83	61,206	+ 3,762	+ 6.5	
AD-33	59,453	+ 2,009	+ 3.5		AD-84	56,225	- 1,219	- 2.1	
SD-12	157,332	- 15,001	- 8.7		SD-29	167,310	- 5,023	- 2.9	
AD-34	53,812	- 3,632	- 6.3		AD-85	54,840	- 2,604	- 4.5	
AD-35	52,716	- 4,728	- 8.2		AD-86	59,763	+ 2,319	+ 4.0	
AD-36	50,804	- 6,640	- 11.6		AD-87	52,707	- 4,737	- 8.2	
SD-13	175,277	+ 2,944	+ 1.7		SD-30	173,432	+ 1,099	+ 0.6	
AD-37	58,965	+ 1,521	+ 2.6		AD-88	58,089	+ 645	+ 1.1	
AD-38	59,797	+ 2,353	+ 4.1		AD-89	58,999	+ 1,555	+ 2.7	
AD-39	56,515	- 929	- 1.6		AD-90	56,344	- 1,100	- 1.9	
SD-14	168,782	- 3,551	- 2.1		SD-31	173,352	+ 1,019	+ 0.6	
AD-40	55,223	- 2,221	- 3.9		AD-91	56,636	- 808	- 1.4	
AD-41	55,581	- 1,863	- 3.2		AD-92	58,894	+ 1,450	+ 2.5	
AD-42	57,978	+ 534	+ 0.9		AD-93	57,822	+ 378	+ 0.7	
SD-15	170,251	- 2,082	- 1.2		SD-32	172,379	+ 46	+ 0.0	
AD-43	57,584	+ 140	+ 0.2		AD-94	62,641	+ 5,197	+ 9.0	
AD-44	53,057	- 4,387	- 7.6		AD-95	53,998	- 3,446	- 6.0	
AD-45	59,610	+ 2,166	+ 3.8		AD-96	55,740	- 1,704	- 3.0	
SD-16	188,936	+ 16,603	+ 9.6		SD-33	177,499	+ 5,166	+ 3.0	
AD-46	65,837	+ 8,393	+ 14.6		AD-97	57,299	- 145	- 0.3	
AD-47	61,697	+ 4,253	+ 7.4		AD-98	56,450	- 994	- 1.7	
AD-48	61,402	+ 3,958	+ 6.9		AD-99	63,750	+ 6,306	+ 11.0	
SD-17	172,391	+ 58	+ 0.0						
AD-49	55,522	- 1,922	- 3.3						
AD-50	59,182	+ 1,738	+ 3.0						
AD-51	57,687	+ 243	+ 0.4						

¹The court amended its original order of May 22, 2002 (*Baumgart v. Wendelberger*; No. 01-C-121) on May 30 and July 11, 2002.

These statistics reflect the changes.

²Ideal Senate District: 172,333; Ideal Assembly District: 57,444.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, March 2011. Deviations and percentages computed by the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau.

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 change existing law will usually amend, create, repeal, renumber, renumber and amend, or repeal and recreate one or more sections of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. After the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) 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 LRB 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.

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



Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (second from right) discusses strategy with fellow Republicans Randy Hopper, Frank Lasee, Mary Lazich, and Rich Zipperer. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

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 LRB. Records from 1997 to the present are available on the legislature's Web site.

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*, May 12, 2011:

The committee on **Veterans and Military Affairs** reports and recommends:

Assembly Bill 96

Relating to: the composition of the Board of Veterans Affairs, the appointment of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and promulgating rules for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 adoption:

Ayes: 9 – Representatives Spanbauer, Wynn, Petrowski, Bies, Nerison, Petryk, Milroy, Radcliffe and Ringhand.

Noes: 1 – Representative Sinicki.

Passage as amended.

Ayes: 6 – Representatives Spanbauer, Wynn, Petrowski, Bies, Nerison and Petryk.

Noes: 4 – Representatives Milroy, Radcliffe, Sinicki and Ringhand.

To Committee on **Rules**.

Richard Spanbauer
Chairperson

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 2011 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.



Public hearings aren't just for the public. Legislators often testify at public hearings to support or oppose legislation. Here Senator Glenn Grothman (right), Assistant Majority Leader, gives his input. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

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 LRB “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.

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., 2011 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 LRB compiles all the laws enacted during the biennium into bound volumes, called the “Laws of Wisconsin”. The LRB 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 *2009-2010 Wisconsin Statutes* includes all statutory changes resulting from laws enacted by the 2009 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.

2011-2012 LEGISLATIVE SERVICE

The complete 2011-2012 Legislative Service consists of 6 parts, which may be ordered by subscription from the Document Sales office:

Bills, resolutions, and amendments (complete text of each as introduced).

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.

Administrative Rules lists the administrative rules submitted by executive branch agencies by clearinghouse rule number. It includes a subject index, a list of agency contacts, and a cumulative record of actions taken on each proposal.

To obtain all or part of the legislative service, contact Document Sales, Wisconsin Department of Administration, 4622 University Avenue, Madison 53705-2156 or call (608) 266-3358, or (800) 362-7253 for an order form. E-mail Document Sales at docsales@doa.state.wi.us. Any part may be ordered separately. Prepayment is required on all orders. Faxed orders are accepted at (608) 261-8150 when paying with a credit card. Subscribers receive their documents through the mail. All subscriptions to the 2011-2012 Legislative Service will expire on December 31, 2012.

SERVICE	Interdepartmental Delivery*	United Parcel Service (UPS) and U.S. Postal Service*
Complete service, including daily calendars	\$500	\$845
Bills, resolutions, and amendments	160	335
Acts (slip laws)	20	85
Journals	55	145
Bulletin of Proceedings	200	350
Weekly Schedule of Committee Activities	15	85
Administrative Rules	65	95

*All sales are subject to the 5% state sales tax, 0.5% county sales tax, and 0.5% or 0.1% stadium tax, where applicable.



Senator Spencer Coggs (right) a veteran of both houses of the legislature, shares a word with Representative Louis Molepske. (Ting-Li Wang, Legislative Photographer)



Senator Mark Miller serves as the Senate Minority Leader. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

EXECUTIVE VETOES, 1931 – 2009 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	58	58	—	2	2	—	12	0
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	30	25	5	2	1	1	1	0
1947	10	9	1	1	1	—	2	0
1949	17	15	2	2	1	1	0	0
1951	18	18	—	2	2	—	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
2007	1	1	—	4	4	—	33	0
2009	6	6	—	5	5	—	81	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: 1931 (20); 1937 (5); 1941 (12); 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.

¹The number of individual veto statements in the governor’s veto message.

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*.

**POLITICAL COMPOSITION OF THE
WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE
1885 – 2011**

Legislative Session ¹	Senate							Assembly						
	D	R	P	S	SD	M ²	Vacant	D	R	P	S	SD	M ²	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	—	—	2	—	—	17	80	—	—	3	—	—
1911	4	27	—	—	2	—	—	20	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	—	—	—	—	1
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 ³	16	17	—	—	—	—	—	48	51	—	—	—	—	—
1997	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	—	—	—	—	—
2009	18	15	—	—	—	—	—	52	46	—	—	—	1	—
2011	14	19	—	—	—	—	—	38	60	—	—	—	1	—

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); one Independent (2009, 2011).

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.

STATUTES, SESSION LAWS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Printed Materials

The printed state documents listed below are available from Document Sales, 4622 University Avenue, Madison 53705-2156; telephone (608) 266-3358; Fax: (608) 261-8150.

Prices listed do not reflect 5% state sales tax and, where applicable, 0.5% county sales tax and/or 0.5% or 0.1% stadium tax. Taxes must be included with payment. Prepayment is required for all orders. Make check or money order payable to Wisconsin Department of Administration. For MasterCard or Visa orders, call (800) 362-7253.

Wisconsin Statutes 2009-2010:

Hardcover 5-volume set – \$72 (picked up); \$79 (shipped)

Softcover 5-volume set – \$58 (picked up); \$64 (shipped)

2009 Laws of Wisconsin: Hardcover 2-volume set – \$34 (picked up); \$39 (shipped)

Wisconsin Administrative Code, including loose-leaf *Administrative Register*. Subscriptions are available for the entire code or individual code books. Contact Document Sales at (608) 266-3358 for current pricing information.

Machine-Readable Data

WisLaw, the computer-searchable CD-ROM, contains the Wisconsin Statutes and Annotations, plus the Wisconsin and U.S. Constitutions, Supreme Court Rules, Wisconsin Acts, recent Opinions of the Attorney General, the Administrative Code and Register, executive orders, town law forms, and the Wisconsin Code of Military Justice.

WisLaw is continuously updated and is available only by annual subscription. (The number of CD updates released in any 12-month period may vary.) The CD will only be delivered upon receipt of a signed end-user license, subscription form, and full payment. Subscription forms and *WisLaw* end-user licenses are available at Document Sales (see address above) or through the Legislative Reference Bureau home page at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/cdinfo.html>

Sources: Wisconsin Department of Administration, *Document Sales Catalog*, and Legislative Reference Bureau.



The Speaker is the presiding officer of the Assembly, but he often advocates his party's position from the floor. Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald confers with Assistant Minority Leader Donna Seidel, who wears the orange T-shirt that became emblematic of the Democratic caucus in 2011. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE 2011 WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

All standing committees of the 2011 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.



A Conference Committee is convened to reconcile differences between the Senate and Assembly versions of a bill. Representative Peter Barca cast the lone dissenting vote in this conference committee dealing with a bill to curtail public employee collective bargaining power in one of the memorable moments of the 2011 session. (Ting-Li Wang, Legislative Photographer)

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

- Administrative Rules** — VUKMIR, *chairperson*; LEIBHAM, GROTHMAN; TAYLOR*, RISSER.
- Agriculture, Forestry, and Higher Education** — KAPANKE, *chairperson*; HARSDORF, *vice chairperson*; KEDZIE, MOULTON; VINEHOUT*, HANSEN, HOLPERIN.
- Audit** — COWLES, *chairperson*; DARLING, LAZICH; VINEHOUT*, LASSA.
- Economic Development, Veterans and Military Affairs** — HOPPER, *chairperson*; ZIPPERER, *vice chairperson*; DARLING, WANGGAARD; LASSA*, CULLEN, TAYLOR.
- Education** — OLSEN, *chairperson*; VUKMIR, *vice chairperson*; GROTHMAN, DARLING; JAUCH*, VINEHOUT, LARSON.
- Energy, Biotechnology, and Consumer Protection** — COWLES, *chairperson*; KAPANKE, *vice chairperson*; HOPPER; WIRCH*, HANSEN.
- Finance** — DARLING, *chairperson*; OLSEN, *vice chairperson*; HARSDORF, GROTHMAN, LEIBHAM, HOPPER; TAYLOR*, JAUCH.
- Financial Institutions and Rural Issues** — SCHULTZ, *chairperson*; LASEE, *vice chairperson*; KAPANKE; LASSA*, VINEHOUT.

- Health** — VUKMIR, *chairperson*; GALLOWAY, *vice chairperson*; MOULTON; ERPENBACH*, CARPENTER.
- Insurance and Housing** — LASEE, *chairperson*; SCHULTZ, *vice chairperson*; OLSEN, WANGGAARD; CARPENTER*, COGGS, LARSON.
- Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce, and Government Operations** — ZIPPERER, *chairperson*; KEDZIE, *vice chairperson*; GALLOWAY; RISSER*, ERPENBACH.
- Labor, Public Safety, and Urban Affairs** — WANGGAARD, *chairperson*; GROTHMAN, *vice chairperson*; LAZICH; COGGS*, WIRCH.
- Natural Resources and Environment** — KEDZIE, *chairperson*; MOULTON, *vice chairperson*; WANGGAARD, GALLOWAY; WIRCH*, HOLPERIN, LARSON.
- Public Health, Human Services, and Revenue** — GALLOWAY, *chairperson*; LAZICH, *vice chairperson*; VUKMIR; CARPENTER*, JAUCH.
- Senate Organization** — FITZGERALD, *chairperson*; ELLIS, GROTHMAN; MILLER*, HANSEN.
- State and Federal Relations and Information Technology** — HARSDDORF, *chairperson*; LASEE, *vice chairperson*; ZIPPERER; HANSEN*, CULLEN.
- Transportation and Elections** — LAZICH, *chairperson*; LEIBHAM, *vice chairperson*; LASEE; ERPENBACH*, COGGS.
- Workforce Development, Small Business, and Tourism** — MOULTON, *chairperson*; KAPANKE, *vice chairperson*; COWLES; HOLPERIN*, CULLEN.

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEES

- Administrative Rules** — J. OTT, *chairperson*; MEYER, *vice chairperson*; LEMAHIEU; HEBL*, KESSLER.
- Aging and Long-Term Care** — KNODL, *chairperson*; PETRYK, *vice chairperson*; VAN ROY, BERNIER; KRUSICK*, COGGS.
- Agriculture** — NERISON, *chairperson*; TRANEL, *vice chairperson*; A. OTT, MURSAU, MURTHA, TAUCHEN, BROOKS, RIPP, MARKLEIN; VRUWINK*, MOLEPSKE, JORGENSEN, RADCLIFFE, DANOU, STEINBRINK.
- Assembly Organization** — FITZGERALD, *chairperson*; SUDER, *vice chairperson*; KNODL, KRAMER, BALLWEG; BARCA*, SEIDEL, ROYS.
- Audit** — KERKMAN, *chairperson*; VOS, *vice chairperson*; PETERSEN; JORGENSEN*, RICHARDS.
- Children and Families** — PRIDEMORE, *chairperson*; KRUG, *vice chairperson*; KESTELL, WILLIAMS, THIESFELDT; BERCEAU*, SEIDEL, POPE-ROBERTS.
- Colleges and Universities** — NASS, *chairperson*; KNUDSON, *vice chairperson*; BALLWEG, PRIDEMORE, KNODL, FARROW, WYNN; TOLES*, BERCEAU, MOLEPSKE, POCAN.
- Consumer Protection and Personal Privacy** — RIPP, *chairperson*; AUGUST, *vice chairperson*; SPANBAUER, KOOYENGA, KRUG; ROYS*, HEBL, COGGS.
- Criminal Justice and Corrections** — BIES, *chairperson*; JACQUE, *vice chairperson*; KESTELL, BROOKS, KRUG, THIESFELDT (eff. 5/23/11); KESSLER*, TURNER, HEBL (eff. 5/11/11).
- Education** — KESTELL, *chairperson*; MARKLEIN, *vice chairperson*; NASS, PRIDEMORE, KNUDSON, THIESFELDT, WYNN; POPE-ROBERTS*, SINICKI, HINTZ, CLARK.
- Election and Campaign Reform** — TAUCHEN, *chairperson*; BERNIER, *vice chairperson*; STONE, PRIDEMORE, WEININGER; PARISI (through 4/14/11), ROYS*, KESSLER, ZAMARRIPA (eff. 5/23/11).
- Energy and Utilities** — HONADEL, *chairperson*; KLENKE, *vice chairperson*; PETERSEN, TAUCHEN, LARSON, SEVERSON, WEININGER; ZEPNICK*, STEINBRINK, STASKUNAS, HULSEY.
- Finance** — VOS, *chairperson*; MEYER, *vice chairperson*; STRACHOTA, LEMAHIEU, NYGREN, KLEEFISCH; GRIGSBY*, SHILLING.
- Financial Institutions** — KRAMER, *chairperson*; KOOYENGA, *vice chairperson*; KAUFERT, KERKMAN, MARKLEIN, TRANEL, CRAIG (eff. 5/23/11), STROEBEL (eff. 5/23/11); FIELDS*, ZEPNICK, YOUNG, HINTZ, RICHARDS.

- Forestry** — MURSAU, *chairperson*; TIFFANY, *vice chairperson*; WILLIAMS, MURTHA; MILROY*, BEWLEY.
- Health** — STONE, *chairperson*; SEVERSON, *vice chairperson*; KAUFERT, VAN ROY, STRACHOTA, PETERSEN, LITJENS; RICHARDS*, PASCH, POCAN, SEIDEL.
- Homeland Security and State Affairs** — VAN ROY, *chairperson*; KUGLITSCH, *vice chairperson*; BALLWEG, AUGUST, KOOYENGA; DANOU*, ZAMARRIPA, BEWLEY.
- Housing** — MURTHA, *chairperson*; LITJENS, *vice chairperson*; FARROW, RIVARD, STEINEKE; YOUNG*, POPE-ROBERTS, BEWLEY.
- Insurance** — PETERSEN, *chairperson*; WEININGER, *vice chairperson*; KESTELL, NYGREN, AUGUST, KAPENGA, TRANEL, CRAIG (eff. 5/23/11), STROEBEL (eff. 5/23/11); ZIEGELBAUER; CULLEN*, BERCEAU, MOLEPSKE, FIELDS, YOUNG, DOYLE (eff. 5/31/11).
- Jobs, Economy and Small Business** — WILLIAMS, *chairperson*; ENDSLEY, *vice chairperson*; STONE, KAPENGA, KLENKE, KNILANS, KUGLITSCH, LOUDENBECK, PETRYK; MOLEPSKE*, BERNARD SCHABER, FIELDS, TOLES, KRUSICK, MASON.
- Judiciary and Ethics** — J. OTT, *chairperson*; LARSON, *vice chairperson*; KERKMAN, JACQUE, CRAIG (eff. 5/23/11); HEBL*, STASKUNAS, CULLEN.
- Labor and Workforce Development** — BALLWEG, *chairperson*; KAPENGA, *vice chairperson*; NASS, HONADEL, KUGLITSCH, LITJENS; SINICKI*, TOLES, PARISI (through 4/14/11), HINTZ (eff. 4/26/11).
- Natural Resources** — MURSAU, *chairperson*; RIVARD, *vice chairperson*; WILLIAMS, KLEEFISCH, NERISON, J. OTT (through 5/23/11), SEVERSON, STEINEKE, TIFFANY, STROEBEL (eff. 5/23/11), LITJENS (eff. 5/23/11); MASON*, MOLEPSKE, DANOU, CLARK, MILROY, HULSEY.
- Public Health and Public Safety** — BIES, *chairperson*; KNILANS, *vice chairperson*; PETROWSKI, LOUDENBECK; ZIEGELBAUER; BERNARD SCHABER*, PASCH, ZAMARRIPA.
- Rules** — SUDER, *chairperson*; FITZGERALD, *vice chairperson*; KRAMER, KNODL, BALLWEG, MURTHA, WILLIAMS; BARCA*, SEIDEL, ROYS, CLARK, TURNER.
- Rural Economic Development and Rural Affairs** — A. OTT, *chairperson*; STEINEKE, *vice chairperson*; PETROWSKI, MURTHA, TAUCHEN, RIPP, KRUG, LARSON, RIVARD; DANOU*, VRUWINK, JORGENSEN, RADCLIFFE, ROYS (through 5/31/11), RINGHAND, DOYLE (eff. 5/31/11).
- Tourism, Recreation and State Properties** — KAUFERT, *chairperson*; LOUDENBECK, *vice chairperson*; BIES, MEYER, BERNIER, KLENKE, TIFFANY; CLARK*, STEINBRINK, MASON, YOUNG, ZEPNICK, DOYLE (eff. 5/31/11).
- Transportation** — PETROWSKI, *chairperson*; FARROW, *vice chairperson*; A. OTT, STONE, VAN ROY, HONADEL, RIPP, ENDSLEY, KNILANS; STEINBRINK*, VRUWINK, BERNARD SCHABER, JORGENSEN, BEWLEY, HULSEY (through 5/31/11), DOYLE (eff. 5/31/11).
- Urban and Local Affairs** — BROOKS, *chairperson*; THIESFELDT, *vice chairperson*; SPANBAUER, JACQUE, KNUDSON; ZIEGELBAUER; RINGHAND*, COGGS, POCAN.
- Veterans and Military Affairs** — SPANBAUER, *chairperson*; WYNN, *vice chairperson*; PETROWSKI, BIES, NERISON, PETRYK, KOOYENGA (eff. 5/23/11); MILROY*, RADCLIFFE, SINICKI, RINGHAND.
- Ways and Means** — KERKMAN, *chairperson*; NASS, *vice chairperson*; PETERSEN, KNODL, ENDSLEY, KAPENGA; ZIEGELBAUER; STASKUNAS*, TOLES, STEINBRINK, ZAMARRIPA.
-

PERSONAL DATA ON WISCONSIN LEGISLATORS
2001 – 2011 Sessions

	2001		2003		2005		2007		2009		2011	
	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.*	Sen.	Rep.*
Party affiliation												
Democrat	18	43	15	41	14	39	18	47	18	52	14	38
Republican	15	56	18	58	19	60	15	52	15	46	19	60
Number with previous legislative service												
In senate	30	0	27	0	28	0	29	0	31	0	26	0
In assembly	24	89	22	84	23	81	23	82	23	86	23	69
Highest number of prior sessions in same house	19	15	20	16	21	17	22	18	23	19	24	14
Occupations												
Full-time legislator	15	40	13	39	11	39	12	38	11	39	11	32
Attorney	5	10	3	8	2	11	3	11	3	12	3	8
Farmer	1	13	3	9	5	9	3	5	3	5	2	6
Other	12	36	14	43	17	40	15	45	16	43	16	53
Education												
High school only	2	13	4	12	4	9	2	7	1	7	0	4
Beyond high school	31	86	29	87	29	90	31	92	32	92	33	95
Bachelor's or associate degree	28	67	25	67	26	70	28	69	29	69	29	73
Advanced degree	8	31	7	32	8	34	10	37	11	35	10	27
Number with experience on local governing body												
County board	4	18	4	19	4	18	4	17	4	15	6	16
Municipal board	5	36	8	35	10	28	12	25	12	30	9	29
Age												
Oldest	73	71	75	75	77	77	79	79	81	80	83	72
Youngest	37	26	33	27	34	28	36	28	38	29	30	25
Average	52	47	51	49	52	50	54	50	55	50	56	49
Veterans	4	15	4	13	4	13	2	16	2	16	2	13
Marital Status												
Single	5	23	5	17	10	25	8	25	9	24	7	18
Married	28	76	28	80	23	70	25	69	24	71	26	79
Widowed	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	5	0	4	0	2
Number of women	11	22	8	27	8	26	8	22	7	22	8	23

*Includes one Independent.

Sen. – Senators; Rep. – Representatives.

Note: Most data are recorded as of the date on which the legislature first convened; ages are determined as of January 1.

Sources: *Wisconsin Blue Book*, various issues, and data collected by the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, January 2011.

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 VUKMIR, REPRESENTATIVE J. OTT, *cochairpersons*; SENATORS LEIBHAM, GROTHMAN; TAYLOR*, RISSER; REPRESENTATIVES MEYER, LEMAHIEU; HEBL*, KESSLER.

Mailing Addresses: Senator Vukmir, Room 131 South, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Representative Jim Ott, Room 317 North, State Capitol, P.O. Box 8953, Madison 53708-8953.

Telephones: Senator Vukmir, 266-2512; Representative Ott, 266-0486.

E-mail: sen.vukmir@legis.wisconsin.gov; rep.ottj@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. Chapter 659, Laws of 1965, granted the committee 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 Wisconsin Act 182 authorized the joint committee to extend its 30-day review period and allowed it to negotiate with agencies to modify existing rules.

State of Wisconsin BUILDING COMMISSION

Members: GOVERNOR WALKER, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE KAUFERT, *vice chairperson*; SENATORS SCHULTZ, COWLES; RISSER; REPRESENTATIVES BALLWEG; HINTZ; BOB BRANDHERM (citizen member appointed by governor). Nonvoting advisory members from Department of Administration: MICHAEL HUEBSCH (departmental secretary), GILBERT FUNK (chief engineer), vacancy (chief architect).

Secretary: JEFF PLALE, *administrator*, Division of State Facilities, Department of Administration.

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

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

Telephone: 266-1031.

Fax: 267-2710.

Total Budget 2009-11: \$40,267,100. (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 appro-



A legislative body sets its own rules, which guide it in the conduct of legislative business. Senate Chief Clerk Rob Marchant (left) discusses how Senate Rules apply to the events of the day with Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (center) and Senate President Mike Ellis on February 22, 2011. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)



Representatives Samantha Kerkman and John Steinbrink are of different parties, but both represent Kenosha County in the Assembly. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

prated 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 8-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. In addition, 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: SENATORS ZIPPERER, TAYLOR; REPRESENTATIVES KLEEFISCH, TURNER; J.B. VAN HOLLEN (attorney general); GARY HAMBLIN (secretary of corrections); KELLI THOMPSON (state public defender); JAMES T. BAYORGEON, DAVID G. DEININGER (reserve judges appointed by supreme court); BRADLEY GEHRING, DAVID MAHONEY (public members appointed by governor).

Mailing Address: Senator Zipperer, Room 323 South, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Representative Kleefisch, Room 321 East, State Capitol, P.O. Box 8952, Madison 53708.

Telephones: Senator Zipperer, 266-9174; Representative Kleefisch, 266-8551.

E-mail: sen.zipperer@legis.wisconsin.gov; rep.kleefisch@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; the members from the majority parties serve as cochairpersons. 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.

Joint Committee on EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

SENATOR ELLIS (senate president), REPRESENTATIVE J. FITZGERALD (assembly speaker), SENATORS S. FITZGERALD (majority leader), MILLER (minority leader); REPRESENTATIVES SUDER (majority leader), BARCA (minority leader); SENATOR DARLING, REPRESENTATIVE VOS (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 (4), 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.

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 pass the bill, the agreement 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 compensation 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 may be disapproved by the governor. The committee may set aside the governor's disapproval by a vote of 6 committee members.

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

Joint Committee on FINANCE

SENATOR DARLING, REPRESENTATIVE VOS, SENATORS OLSEN, HARSDORF, GROTHMAN, LEIBHAM, HOPPER; TAYLOR*, JAUCH; REPRESENTATIVES MEYER, LEMAHIEU, NYGREN, STRACHOTA, KLEEFISCH, GRIGSBY*, SHILLING.

Mailing Addresses: Senator Darling, Room 317 East, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Representative Vos, Room 309 East, State Capitol, P.O. Box 8953, Madison 53708-8953.

Telephones: Senator Darling, 266-5830; Representative Vos, 266-9171.

E-mail: sen.darling@legis.wisconsin.gov; rep.vos@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 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.



Senators Fred Risser, Lena Taylor, Kathleen Vinehout, and Bob Jauch make their views known on the Voter ID bill, May 19, 2011. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

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. Chapter 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 HARSDFORF, COWLES, ZIPPERER; RISSER, LARSON; REPRESENTATIVES PETERSEN, KRUG, KAPENGA; 2 vacancies.

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 University of Wisconsin Board of Regents is required to submit a report to the committee twice annually, detailing each information technology project in the University of Wisconsin System costing more than \$1 million or deemed “high-risk” by the board. The committee may make recommendations on the identified projects to the governor and the legislature. 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.



The Speaker pro Tempore usually presides over Assembly floor action. This year that role is filled by Representative Bill Kramer of Waukesha. (Ting-Li Wang, Legislative Photographer)

Joint LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Members: SENATOR COWLES, REPRESENTATIVE KERKMAN, *cochairpersons*; SENATOR DARLING, REPRESENTATIVE VOS (joint finance committee cochairpersons); SENATORS LAZICH; VINEHOUT*, LASSA; REPRESENTATIVES PETERSEN; JORGENSEN*, RICHARDS.

Mailing Addresses: Senator Cowles, Room 118 South, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Representative Kerkman, Room 315 North, State Capitol, P.O. Box 8952, Madison 53708-8952.

Telephones: Senator Cowles, 266-0484; Representative Kerkman, 266-2530.

E-mail: sen.cowles@legis.wisconsin.gov; rep.kerkman@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 LAZICH (designated by senate president), REPRESENTATIVE BALLWEG (designated by assembly speaker), *cochairpersons*; SENATORS LEIBHAM (president pro tempore), S. FITZGERALD (majority leader), MILLER (minority leader), DARLING (cochairperson, Joint Committee on Finance), TAYLOR (ranking minority member, Joint Committee on Finance), SCHULTZ, GALLOWAY, LASEE, ERPENBACH, T. CULLEN; REPRESENTATIVES J. FITZGERALD (assembly speaker), KRAMER (speaker pro tempore), SUDER (majority leader), BARCA (minority leader), VOS (cochairperson, Joint Committee on Finance), GRIGSBY (ranking minority member, Joint Committee on Finance), KAUFERT, NYGREN, BERCEAU, PASCH. (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: RICHARD SWEET, *director*, richard.sweet@legis.wisconsin.gov; PAM SHANNON, *assistant director*, pam.shannon@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.wisconsin.gov/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: 34.17.

Total Budget 2009-11: \$7,834,400.

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 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 or decline to serve on the council. 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 MURSAU, *chairperson*; SENATOR COGGS, *vice chairperson*; SENATOR VINEHOUT; REPRESENTATIVE MILROY; LAURA ARBUCKLE (Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians), WILLIAM MORROW (Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board), DEE ANN MAYO (Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians), MARVIN DEFOE (Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas), LAURIE BOIVIN (Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin), GREGG W. DUFFEK (Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians), MELINDA DANFORTH (Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin).

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



The State of the Tribes address has become a much anticipated event in each legislative session. (Ting-Li Wang, Legislative Photographer)

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. The committee has its origins in the Menominee Indians Committee, created in 1955 to study the governmental status of the Menominee Indian Tribe at that time. Chapter 39, Laws of 1975, replaced that committee with the more broadly focused Native American Study Committee. Its name was changed to the American Indian Study Committee in 1982. 1999 Wisconsin Act 60 gave it its current name and revised the membership. The committee's composition and duties are prescribed in Section 13.83 (3) of the statutes.

...Technical Advisory Committee

Members: MARK MITCHELL (Department of Children and Families), JIM WEBER (Department of Health Services), TOM BELLAVIA (Department of Justice), MICHAEL LUTZ (Department of Natural Resources), J.P. LEARY (Department of Public Instruction), TOM OURADA (Department of Revenue), ALYSSA MACY (Department of Transportation), JOHN WALKER (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 8 major executive agencies, assists the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations.

Law Revision Committee

Members: vacancy.

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 Legislative Reference Bureau 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, as a combination of the Judiciary Committee, which had its origins in a 1951 mandate to prepare a criminal code, and the Remedial Legislation Committee, created in 1959. Its composition and duties are prescribed in Section 13.83 (1) of the statutes.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES REPORTING IN 2011

Special Committee on Criminal Justice Funding and Strategies

Members: REPRESENTATIVE BROOKS, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE TURNER, *vice chairperson*; SENATOR TAYLOR; REPRESENTATIVE STEINBRINK; JOHN BARRETT, JOHN BIRDSALL, THOMAS CAYWOOD, BEN KEMPINEN, JEFFREY A. KREMERS, SHERRI MCNAMARA, SCOTT NEEDHAM, DAVID O'LEARY, DENNIS ROME, RAGEN SHAPIRO, JOHN SKILTON, MARLA STEPHENS, NOBLE WRAY.

The special committee is directed to study funding of the criminal justice system and strategies to adequately and sustainably fund the criminal justice system. The study shall include consideration of funding for prosecutors, defense attorneys, and courts and collection of fees and surcharges imposed on criminal defendants.

. . . Subcommittee on Courts and Effective Justice Strategies

Members: DENNIS ROME, *lead*; REPRESENTATIVE TURNER; BEN KEMPINEN, SCOTT NEEDHAM, NOBLE WRAY.

The subcommittee is directed to develop recommendations relating to effective collaboration between the courts and other elements of the criminal justice system. The subcommittee should consider best practices and current effective programs in Wisconsin that have the goal of reducing costs, reducing recidivism, and increasing public safety.

. . . Subcommittee on Funding Components

Members: DAVID O'LEARY, *lead*; REPRESENTATIVES BROOKS, STEINBRINK; JOHN BIRDSALL, RAGEN SHAPIRO, MARLA STEPHENS, JOHN SKILTON.

The subcommittee is directed to develop recommendations regarding the number of prosecutors and public defender positions needed in Wisconsin. The recommendation should include a



Representative Gary Bies, a veteran of five legislative sessions, takes the opportunity to chat with Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch before the State of the Tribes address. Kleefisch is married to Representative Joel Kleefisch. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

suggested methodology to make this determination. The subcommittee is also directed to consider funding sources for any additional positions recommended or alternative funding sources for these positions, in general.

... Subcommittee on Justice System Funding, Organization, and Strategies

Members: THOMAS CAYWOOD, *lead*; SENATOR TAYLOR; JOHN BARRETT, JEFFREY KREMERS, SHERRI MCNAMARA.

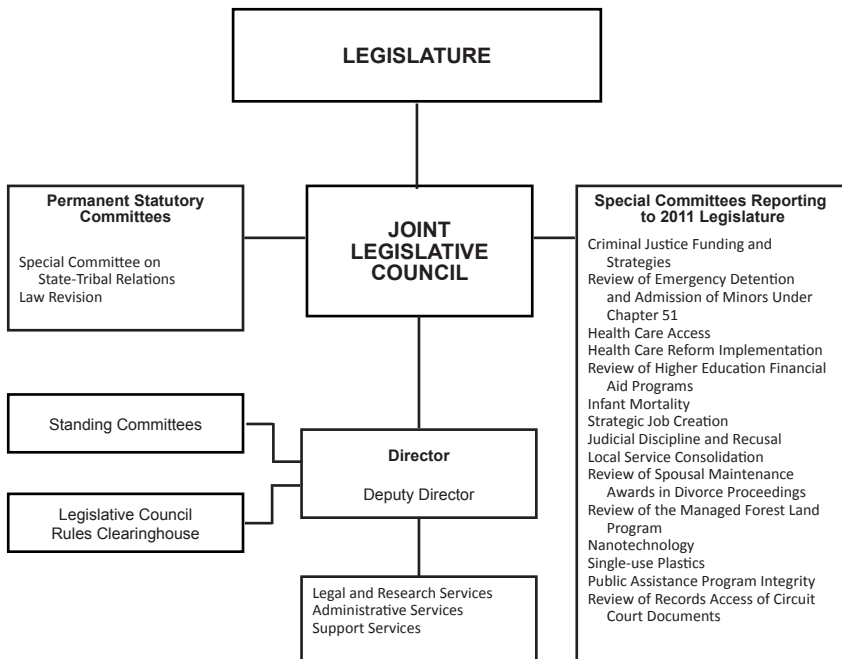
The subcommittee is directed to develop recommendations relating to funding the court system. The subcommittee should review the current funding structure for the courts, ways to decrease court costs by increasing efficiency in the criminal justice system, and the potential reinvestment of funding if costs can be reduced. In addition, the subcommittee should create recommendations for statewide implementation of efficiencies in the court system and successful criminal justice strategies.

Special Committee on Review of Emergency Detention and Admission of Minors Under Chapter 51

Members: SENATOR LAZICH, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE PASCH, *vice chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVES BALLWEG, PARISI; SENATOR HANSEN; MICHAEL J. BACHHUBER, JON S. BERLIN, ANN HRAYCHUCK, KRISTIN M. KERSCHENSTEINER, GEORGE KERWIN, MICHAEL KIEFER, GINA KOEPL, TALLY MOSES, BRIAN A. SHOUP, GALEN STREBE, BRENDA E. WESLEY, CARIANNE YERKES.

The special committee is directed to review the following provisions in Chapter 51, Wisconsin Statutes: a) the appropriateness of, and inconsistencies in, the utilization of emergency detention procedures under Section 51.15 across this state, and the availability and cost of emergency detention facilities; b) the inconsistent statutory approaches to emergency detention between Mil-

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL



waukee County and other counties in the state; and c) the inconsistent application of procedures relating to admission of minors under Section 51.13, as modified by 2005 Wisconsin Act 444.

Special Committee on Health Care Access

Members: SENATOR OLSEN, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE KESSLER, *vice chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE VRUWINK; SANDY ANDERSON, TERRY BRANDENBURG, BRUCE COLBURN, MARY LU GERKE, CURT GIELOW, TED A. KAY, NATHAN LUEDKE, GREG NY CZ, JEFF PATTERSON, ROBERTA RIPORELLA, ROBERT SCHMIDT, JOHN TOWNSEND, SHELDON A. WASSERMAN, EARNESTINE WILLIS.

The special committee is directed to study potential solutions to the shortage of health care providers, particularly in rural areas and inner cities, and the adequacy of funding for public health. The committee is also directed to study possible state assistance to underserved areas and an expansion of Wisconsin's capacity for training family practice physicians and nurses, and additional funding sources for public health.

Special Committee on Health Care Reform Implementation

Members: SENATOR DARLING, REPRESENTATIVE STRACHOTA, *cochairpersons*; SENATOR ERPENBACH, REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDS, *co-vice chairpersons*; REPRESENTATIVE SHILLING; WENDY ARNONE, TIM BARTHOLOW, CHERYL A. DEMARS, ED HARDING, JEFF HUEBNER, ROBERT KRAIG, JOE LEEAN, DAVID NEWBY, CANDICE OWLEY, ROBERT PALMER, WILLIAM D. PETASNICK, ROBERT PHILLIPS, DAVID RIEMER, JUDY ROBSON, MARLIN D. SCHNEIDER, BARBARA ZABAWA.

The special committee is directed to study and make recommendations on what changes should be made to Wisconsin's statutes and administrative rules in response to recently enacted federal health care reform legislation. The committee is directed to study all aspects of the federal legislation that affect Wisconsin including insurance market reforms, coverage for uninsured persons, preventive care, taxation, quality improvement, and health workforce issues.

Special Committee on Review of Higher Education Financial Aid Programs

Members: REPRESENTATIVE BALLWEG, *chairperson*; SENATOR RISSER, *vice chairperson*; SARA GOLDRICK-RAB, MARY JO GREEN, JANE HOJAN-CLARK, LOUISE J. JANKE, AMY KERWIN, ROCK LARSON, THOMAS LOTHIAN, DON MADELUNG, DARCY PAULSON, MARLIN D. SCHNEIDER, MICHAEL SWAIN, PAUL WATSON, ROLF WEGENKE.

The special committee is directed to review current laws relating to financial aid for higher education in order to improve student access to higher education, maximize utilization of higher education resources, and retain qualified graduates in Wisconsin. Policies for review may include: a) the Wisconsin Covenant; b) loan forgiveness programs; c) Wisconsin/Minnesota tuition reciprocity; d) academic excellence scholarships; and e) need-based grants and loans.

Special Committee on Infant Mortality

Members: JUDITH ROBSON, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE MASON, *vice chairperson*; SENATOR WIRCH; REPRESENTATIVES PASCH, POPE-ROBERTS; ANNA BENTON, ANN CONWAY, ANNE EGLASH, AMY FALKENBERG, LISA JENTSCH, SHERI PATTILLO JOHNSON, LORRAINE LATHEN, TINA MASON, RICHARD PERRY, THOMAS SCHLENKER, JACQUELYN TILLET, LEONA VANDEVUSSE, MARK VILLALPANDO, CINDY WEBORG.

The special committee is directed to: a) study the causes of infant mortality in Wisconsin; b) evaluate efforts that have been undertaken to address this problem in both the private and public sectors; c) study coordination of public health and Medicaid funding; d) evaluate infant mortality prevention programs that have been successful in other cities and states; e) evaluate the public health costs of not addressing the causes of infant mortality in Wisconsin; and f) develop a strategic proposal, including any necessary legislation, to address infant mortality in Wisconsin, particularly disparities in infant mortality rates in different geographic areas of the state.

Special Committee on Strategic Job Creation

Members: REPRESENTATIVE STRACHOTA, *chairperson*; SENATOR WIRCH, *vice chairperson*; SENATORS CARPENTER, HOLPERIN, HOPPER; REPRESENTATIVES MOLEPSKE, RIPP; FREDERICK BROOKHOUSE, JENNIFER K. BROWN, JOHN DAVEN, JR., PAUL GABRIEL, KIM KINDSCHI, CONNIE LODEN, TODD TIMMERMAN.



Representatives Donna Seidel, Tony Staskunas, Scott Suder, and Dan LeMahieu converse on the Assembly floor. (Ting-Li Wang, Legislative Photographer)

The special committee is directed to study and make recommendations to promote strategic development of high-wage jobs and an educated and skilled workforce in the state by doing the following: a) examining methods to promote green jobs and industries utilizing solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass technologies, including technologies for converting farm wastes to energy. In this examination, analyze current and potential incentives to encourage investment in research, development, commercialization, and use of these technologies and the development and retention of an educated and skilled workforce in these industries; b) identifying industry and knowledge sectors with the greatest potential for job growth in the state and recommending steps to align the state's educational and workforce development programs, tax structure, and economic development initiatives to facilitate the growth of those sectors; and c) analyzing the adequacy of the state's physical infrastructure, including access to high-speed Internet services, to support development of targeted industries and overall economic development of the state.

Special Committee on Judicial Discipline and Recusal

Members: REPRESENTATIVE HEBL, *chairperson*; SENATOR GROTHMAN, *vice chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVES KESSLER, LEMAHIEU; THOMAS BASTING, TROY D. CROSS, MAC DAVIS, DIANE S. DIEL, STEPHEN HURLEY, ANDREA KAMINSKI, LYNN LAUFENBERG, DAVID SCHULTZ.

The special committee is directed to: a) review the current method by which justices and judges are disciplined; b) examine alternative methods of judicial discipline, including methods of judicial discipline in other states and in the federal court system; and c) recommend a method by which justices and judges should be disciplined. The committee is also directed to review the current system of judicial recusal and to recommend an objective standard for judicial recusal.

Special Committee on Local Service Consolidation

Members: REPRESENTATIVE ZEPNICK, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVES POCAN, STONE; RICHARD ABELSON, DEBRA AMESQUA, ALLAN D. BILBAO, RON CHAMBERLAIN, TINA CRUSE, JOSEPH J. CZARNEZKI, DENNIS DRESANG, KEN HARTJE, JOE HEIM, CHUCK HICKLIN, WILLIAM MIELKE, MARK NICOLINI, DENNIS O'LOUGHLIN, MICHAEL WOODZICKA.

The special committee is directed to review current law and practice regarding the provision of services by local units of government in order to determine whether current law should be

amended to facilitate the methods by which local units of government can partner to efficiently and cost-effectively provide services, including police, fire, and educational services, to their constituents.

Special Committee on Review of Spousal Maintenance Awards in Divorce Proceedings

Members: REPRESENTATIVE STASKUNAS, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE VRUWINK, *vice chairperson*; SENATOR OLSEN; REPRESENTATIVE KLEEFISCH; MICHAEL J. BRUCH, JUDITH BUDNY, TOM GROGAN, MALCOLM KEITH HATFIELD, KOREY C. LUNDIN, MARSHA MANSFIELD, ANDREW MATZNICK, ROBERT MAWDSLEY, DAN PENCE, JEFF PLALE, WILLIAM POCAN, JARED POTTER, KENNETH SEUBERT.

The special committee is directed to study: a) the purpose and goals of awarding maintenance; b) making application of the maintenance considerations given in Section 767.56, Wisconsin Statutes, more uniform and predictable; c) whether the statutes should provide guidance to the courts relating to amount and duration of a maintenance award; d) whether cohabitation should be considered when revising maintenance orders under Section 767.59, Wisconsin Statutes; and e) whether marital fault should be considered when determining a maintenance award.

Special Committee on Review of the Managed Forest Land Program

Members: SENATOR SCHULTZ, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE CLARK, *vice chairperson*; SENATORS HOLPERIN, KEDZIE; MARK ABELES-ALISON, MIKE CARLSON, DONALD FRISKE, ALAN HANEY, SCOTT HENKER, BILL HORVATH, MARY HUBLER, E.G. NADEAU, DEAN PELKEY, CHARLY RAY, MARK RICKENBACH, EUGENE ROARK, FRED SOUBA, JR., RICHARD J. STADELMAN.

The special committee is directed to review the Managed Forest Land (MFL) Program in order to ensure the long-term management and sustainability of private forest lands and to increase participation in the program. The committee shall review the following issues: a) the scope and statutory purposes of the MFL program; b) ways to increase public access on MFL lands; c) the relationship between local zoning and the entry of parcels in the MFL program; d) the impact of MFL enrollment on local and county revenues; and e) trends in forest ownership and trends in forest product markets including biofuels.



Senator Lena Taylor voices her opinion to Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (left) while Minority Leader Mark Miller looks on. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Special Committee on Nanotechnology

Members: SENATOR HARSDORF, *chairperson*; SENATOR MILLER, *vice chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVES BERCEAU, STRACHOTA; CHUCK BENEDICT, JEFF CERNOHOUS, MICHAEL CRONIN, GEORGE GRUETZMACHER, ROBERT HAMERS, JAMES HAMILTON, DOUG HANSMANN, GEORGE LISENSKY, PAMELA D. OWEN, RICHARD PETERSON.

The special committee is directed to examine the human health and environmental concerns related to the manufacture, use, and disposal of nanomaterials and develop legislation to address these concerns. In particular, the committee shall consider the establishment of methods to monitor nanomaterials by use of a nanotechnology registry system or the imposition of other disclosure requirements. The committee shall also develop strategies to facilitate the development of nanotechnology to create and retain jobs in Wisconsin, including ways in which government can help nanotechnology researchers, small firms, and start-ups address potential risks and meet regulatory requirements.

Special Committee on Single-Use Plastics

Members: SPENCER BLACK, *chairperson*; SENATOR HOLPERIN, *vice chairperson*; SENATOR COWLES; WIN CLEMMONS, GEORGE DRECKMANN, CHARLES EVENHOUSE, JOHN KELLY, BRIAN LAWLESS, TIM METCALFE, RICK MEYERS, JOHN REINDL, ROGER SPRINGMAN, JOE VAN ROSSUM.

The special committee is directed to: a) evaluate the economic and environmental costs and benefits of single-use products, such as plastic food and beverage packaging and containers, plastic film products, and agricultural plastics; b) review costs, benefits, availability, and feasibility of possible alternatives to these products; c) assess current recycling efforts for these products, the effectiveness of these programs, and opportunities to promote increased recycling; and d) recommend state policies related to these products that would minimize environmental impacts, maximize recycling, promote desirable alternatives, and benefit the economy of this state.

Special Committee on Public Assistance Program Integrity

Members: SENATOR DARLING, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE HINTZ, *vice chairperson*; SENATOR JAUCH; REPRESENTATIVE ROYS; RICHARD BASILIERE, STEVEN COOK, JONATHAN DELAGRAVE, DAVID FEISS, LILLY B. IRVIN-VITELA, LATONYA JOHNSON, HAL MENENDEZ, LINDA STRUCK.

The special committee is directed to study current laws, rules, and policies relating to fraud prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution, and the current fraud penalty structure, in public assistance programs under Chapter 49, Wisconsin Statutes. The study shall include consideration of all of the following: a) the findings and recommendations of recent Legislative Audit Bureau audits of the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program and child care regulation in Wisconsin, and implementation of those recommendations; b) whether current fraud provisions in Chapter 49 should be recodified, streamlined, and made uniform throughout the chapter; c) the effectiveness of current prohibitions and investigatory and enforcement mechanisms; d) whether current penalties and associated consequences of a finding of public assistance fraud achieve the goals of fraud prevention and deterrence; e) incentives for fraud detection by entities administering public assistance programs; f) whether eligibility provisions in certain public assistance programs increase the likelihood of fraudulent activity; and g) funding for fraud prevention, detection, investigation, and enforcement at the state and local level.

... Drafting Subcommittee

Members: REPRESENTATIVE ROYS, JONATHAN DELAGRAVE, DAVID FEISS, LATONYA JOHNSON, HAL MENENDEZ.

The subcommittee is directed to review the provisions of Chapter 49, Wisconsin Statutes, Public Assistance and Children and Family Services, relating to fraud investigation, identification and collection of benefit overpayments, sanctions for program violations, and the procedures for imposing and appealing sanctions; make recommendations to recodify these provisions; and consider whether sections of the chapter should be reorganized.

Special Committee on Review of Records Access of Circuit Court Documents

Members: REPRESENTATIVE BROOKS, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE ROYS, *vice chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE SEIDEL; COLIN BENEDICT, MARY DELANEY, KEITH FINDLEY, FREDERIC W.

FLEISHAUER, ROBERT KINNEY, BILL LUEDERS, MARK SCARBOROUGH, LAHNY SILVA, JEANINE SMITH, ADAM STEPHENS, SHEILA SULLIVAN, MIKE TOBIN.

The special committee is directed to review how, and by whom, circuit court civil and criminal records may be accessed through the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access (WCCA) Web site. The issues to be considered by the committee include: a) the length of time a record remains accessible through WCCA; b) whether accessibility of a record through WCCA should depend on how far a civil or criminal proceeding has progressed; and c) whether records of proceedings that have: 1) been vacated or dismissed; or 2) resulted in acquittal or other form of exoneration should continue to be accessible through WCCA.

Joint Committee on LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION

Members: SENATOR ELLIS (senate president), REPRESENTATIVE J. FITZGERALD (assembly speaker), *cochairpersons*; SENATORS S. FITZGERALD (majority leader), MILLER (minority leader), GROTHMAN (assistant majority leader), HANSEN (assistant minority leader); REPRESENTATIVES SUDER (majority leader), BARCA (minority leader), KNODL (assistant majority leader), SEIDEL (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, and the Legislative Technology Services 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 four 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 legislative 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 matters pertaining to the legislative institution, including the review of computer technology purchases. 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. 2007 Wisconsin Act 20 eliminated the Revisor of Statutes Bureau and transferred its duties to the Legislative Reference Bureau.

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



Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald and Senate President Michael Ellis discuss the situation on the Senate floor. Behind them is the empty "inner ring" of seats vacated by Democrats who left the state in protest of legislation to limit public employee collective bargaining rights. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Joint Survey Committee on RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

Members: SENATOR KAPANKE, REPRESENTATIVE KRAMER, *cochairpersons*; SENATORS WANGGAARD; JAUCH; REPRESENTATIVES ZIEGELBAUER; POCAN; CHARLOTTE GIBSON (assistant attorney general appointed by attorney general), *secretary*; DAVID STELLA (secretary of employee trust funds), TED NICKEL (insurance commissioner); TIM PEDERSON (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 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.



Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca (left) consults a member of his caucus, Representative Gary Hebl, on the Assembly floor. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Joint Legislative STATE SUPPORTED PROGRAMS STUDY AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members: SENATOR SCHULTZ, 4 vacancies; 6 vacancies (representatives).

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 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 HOPPER, REPRESENTATIVE KNODL, *cochairpersons:* SENATORS ZIPPERER, CARPENTER*; REPRESENTATIVES VAN ROY, TURNER*; RICHARD G. CHANDLER (secretary of revenue); KEVIN ST. JOHN (Department of Justice representative appointed by attorney general); KIMBERLY SHAUL (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 WALKER, *chairperson:* SENATORS LAZICH, LEIBHAM, LASEE; HANSEN, HOLPERIN; REPRESENTATIVES PETROWSKI, FARROW, ENDSLEY; CLARK, STEINBRINK; THOMAS CARLSEN, BARBARA FLEISNER, MICHAEL RYAN (citizen members appointed by governor). Nonvoting member: MARK GOTTLIEB (secretary of transportation).

Commission Secretary: ADAM BOARDMAN, adam.boardman@dot.wi.gov

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*; RICHARD A. CHAMPAGNE (designated by chief, Legislative Reference Bureau), *secretary*; SENATORS RISSER, ZIPPERER; REPRESENTATIVE CULLEN, vacancy; TERRY ANDERSON (director, Legislative Council Staff); JUSTICE PATIENCE ROGGENSACK, vacancy (public members appointed by governor).

Mailing Address: 1 East Main Street, Suite 200, Madison 53701-2037.

Telephone: 266-9930.

Fax: 264-6948.

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 8 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. In addition to the members prescribed by law, the commission may include a number of life-members.

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. 2007 Wisconsin Act 20 eliminated the Revisor of Statutes, reducing the total membership to 8.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AGENCIES

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT BUREAU

Interim State Auditor: JOE CHRISMAN, james.chrisman@

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

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

Audit Directors: DIANN L. ALLEN, diann.allen@; SHERRY HAAKENSEN, sherry.haakenson@; CAROLYN STITTLEBURG, carolyn.stittleburg@; DEAN SWENSON, dean.swenson@; KATE WADE, kate.wade@

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

Telephones: 266-2818; Fraud, waste, and mismanagement hotline: (877) FRAUD-17.

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

Publications: Audit reports of individual state agencies and programs; biennial reports.

Number of Employees: 86.80.

Total Budget 2009-11: \$16,247,100.

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; 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 Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, State of Wisconsin Investment Board, the Department of Employee Trust Funds, State Fair Park, the state lottery, and various state insurance funds. The bureau maintains a toll-free number (1-877-FRAUD-17) to receive reports of fraud, waste, and mismanagement in state government. 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



Senator Robert Jauch has served in the Senate since 1987, the third-longest tenure of any senator. (Ting-Li Wang, Legislative Photographer)

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

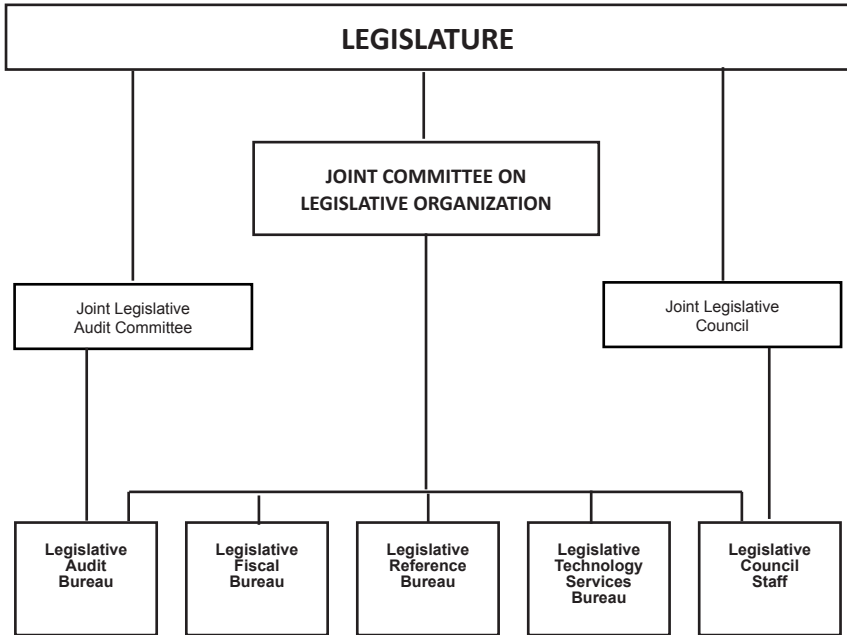
Municipal Best Practices Reviews Advisory Council: CRAIG KNUTSON, ADAM PAYNE (representing the Wisconsin Counties Association); ANTHONY ROACH (representing the League of Wisconsin Municipalities); EDWARD HUCK (representing the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities); DONNA VOGEL (representing the Wisconsin Towns 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.



Senator Robert Wirch (left) speaks to Senator Tim Cullen, who returned to the Senate in 2011 after a 24-year absence. His previous tenure included a stretch as Majority Leader, 1982-1987. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AGENCIES



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF

See Joint Legislative Council pp. 269-270

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 on various state programs, budget issue papers, and revenue estimates. (Reports and papers available on the Internet or upon request.)

Number of Employees: 35.00.

Total Budget 2009-11: \$7,711,400.

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 M. HANAMAN, *deputy chief*, 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, JEFFREY T. KUESEL, MARC E. SHOVERS, REBECCA C. TRADEWELL, *managing attorneys*.

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

Location: 1 East Main Street, Suite 200.

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

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

Internet Address: www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb

Publications: *Wisconsin Blue Book*; *Capitol Headlines*; *Laws of Wisconsin*; *Selective List of Recent Acquisitions*; various sections of the *Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Wisconsin Legislature*; *Wisconsin Statutes and Annotations*; *Wisconsin Administrative Code and Register*; *Wisconsin Town Law Forms*; *WisLaw* on compact disc; informational reports.

Number of Employees: 60.00.

Total Budget 2009-11: \$12,111,400.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.92.



Selecting the photos to appear in the Blue Book is one of the final steps the editors take in compiling each edition. Here Co-editor Lynn Lemanski, Editor Larry Barish, Photo Editor Kathleen Sitter, and Senior Legislative Analyst Michael Keane sort through some of the photos which will eventually appear in the 2011-2012 Blue Book. (Bob Paolino, LRB)

Agency Responsibility: The Legislative Reference Bureau provides nonpartisan, confidential bill drafting, research, and library services to the legislature. The bureau also serves public officials, students of government, and citizens.

By statute, the bureau drafts 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 bureau's work involves the drafting of the state's biennial budget.

The bureau also publishes each Wisconsin act and produces the bound volumes of session laws enacted during the biennial legislative session.

The bureau incorporates newly enacted laws into the existing statutes. The bureau prints updated Wisconsin Statutes and Annotations every two years when the legislature completes its session and publishes quarterly updated versions of the statutes on its Internet site and on compact disc.

The bureau publishes the Wisconsin Administrative Code and the Wisconsin Administrative Register. It also prepares the Wisconsin Town Law Forms.

The reference and library sections provide a broad range of information to aid legislators and other government officials. The reference section publishes reports on subjects of legislative concern and the *Wisconsin Blue Book*, the official almanac of Wisconsin government. Legislative analysts respond 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 Theobald Legislative Library contains an 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, author indexes, and subject indexes to legislative journals, administrative rules, and Wisconsin acts.

The bureau keeps the drafting records of all legislation introduced and uses those records to provide information on legislative history. 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.

History: The creation of the Legislative Reference Bureau, originally the Legislative Reference Library, by Chapter 168, Laws of 1901, was the first organized effort in the nation to provide a state legislature with professional staff assistance. Initially under the governance of the Free Library Commission, the bureau soon began providing bill drafting services to the legislature, a task officially assigned by Chapter 508, Laws of 1907. The bureau acquired the duty of editing the *Wisconsin Blue Book* in 1929 (Chapter 194). In 1963, the legislature renamed the agency the Legislative Reference Bureau and placed it under the direction of the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization. In 2008, the legislature transferred statutory revision duties to the bureau.

LEGISLATIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES BUREAU

Director: JEFF YLVIKAKER.

Administration Manager: PAM BENISCH.

Enterprise Operations Manager: MATT HARNED.



The Legislative Technology Services Bureau (LTSB) provides technical support to the legislature. LTSB Director Jeff Ylvisaker and database technician Tina Michel assisted freshman Representative Brett Hulsey (right) at the new member orientation in January 2011. (Kathleen Sitter, LRB)

Geographic Information Systems Manager: TONY VAN DER WIELEN.

Software Development Manager: DOUG DEMUTH.

Technical Support Manager: NATE ROHAN.

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 Biennial Strategic Technology Plan*, 2011-2012.

Number of Employees: 43.00.

Total Budget 2009-11: \$8,102,000.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.96.

Agency Responsibility: The Legislative Technology Services Bureau (LTSB) provides confidential, nonpartisan information technology services and support to the Wisconsin Legislature. These services include legislative office automation, e-mail, web publishing, training, project management, custom software creation, and management of the information technology infrastructure.

LTSB creates, maintains, and enhances specialized software used for bill drafting, production of the *Wisconsin Statutes* and *Administrative Code*, and publication of the *Wisconsin Blue Book*. It supports the publication of legislative documents including bills and amendments, house journals, daily calendars, and the Bulletin of the Proceedings.

The bureau also maintains network infrastructure, data center operations, electronic communications, desktop computers, laptops, printers, and other technology devices. It keeps an inventory of computer hardware and software assets and manages technology replacement schedules. It provides redistricting services following each decennial U.S. Census and mapping services throughout the decade.

LTSB also provides specialized software for managing constituent interactions, delivers audio and video services, supports the legislature during floor sessions including the voting systems, manages the technology for the Wisconsin Legislature's Internet site, and offers training services for legislators and staff in the use of information technology.

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.

**SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION
ENACTED BY THE 2009 LEGISLATURE**

This section highlights significant legislation enacted by the 2009 Wisconsin Legislature in the biennial session that began January 5, 2009, and concluded January 3, 2011. The legislation is categorized by subject matter and in cases when an act affects more than one area of state law, such as 2009 Wisconsin Act 28 (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 following table summarizes activity in recent legislative sessions:

	Legislative Session				
	2001-02	2003-04	2005-06	2007-08	2009-10
Total Drafting Requests	10,192	9,560	10,134	7,919	9,447
Bills Introduced	1,440	1,568	1,971	1,581	1,723
Assembly Bills	941	998	1,232	988	997
Senate Bills	499	570	739	593	726
Acts	109	327	491	242	406
Percentage of Bills Enacted	7.6%	20.9%	24.9%	15.3%	23.6%
Bills Totally Vetoed	0	54	47	1	5
Bills Partially Vetoed	3	10	2	4	6

SIGNIFICANT 2009-2010 LEGISLATION

Agriculture

Act 90 (AB-250) requires persons who sell at least 25 dogs per year (including persons operating what are commonly called puppy mills), who operate auctions at which dogs are sold, or who operate animal shelters for dogs to be licensed by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). DATCP must periodically inspect the facilities where licensees keep dogs. The act requires licensees to provide dogs with adequate food, water, veterinary care, shelter, and opportunity for exercise. The act prohibits a licensee from selling a dog younger than seven weeks old and requires a licensee to provide a person who buys a dog with information about the dog’s health.

Alcoholic Beverages

Act 28 (AB-75) allows a manufacturer or rectifier to make retail sales, and provide free taste samples, of intoxicating liquor that is manufactured or rectified on the premises.

Business and Consumer Law

Act 265 (SB-409) makes the following changes affecting economic development law:

- Creates a temporary program to award up to \$500,000 in grants to businesses for outsourcing work to rural municipalities.
- Increases from \$250,000 to \$750,000 the limit on annual grants to a high-technology business development corporation, funds a grant writer position for federal small business loans, and awards a grant for an economic modeling database for use by regional economic development entities.
- Creates a temporary program to award up to \$2,000,000 in grants for converting existing manufacturing facilities to renewable energy production and for equipment used to produce renewable energy.
- Increases the Wisconsin development fund by \$500,000 in each year of the 2009-11 fiscal biennium. The Wisconsin development fund provides funding for several existing economic development programs.
- Directs the Department of Commerce to establish a pilot program to create new businesses by distributing up to \$500,000 in loans of not more than \$25,000.

Act 332 (SB-651) authorizes loans to manufacturing businesses for implementing energy efficiency or renewable energy measures, retooling to manufacture products that support the green economy, expanding or establishing domestic clean energy manufacturing, or creating or

retaining jobs for workers engaged in these activities. Commerce must promulgate job creation and retention standards, establish minimum energy savings to qualify, give priority to existing businesses and idle facilities, ensure that loans are distributed to businesses throughout the state, and require that workers paid with loan proceeds receive at least 150 percent of the federal minimum wage. Funding comes from both state and federal revenue. Loan repayments are used to fund additional loans.

Children

Act 19 (SB-141) requires a child care provider to have a child safety alarm installed in a vehicle that has the capacity of six or more passengers in addition to the driver and that is used to transport children to and from the provider. A child safety alarm prompts the driver to inspect the vehicle for children before exiting the vehicle.

Act 76 (SB-331) makes the following changes relating to background investigations of child care providers and the caregivers and nonclient residents of those providers:

- Provides that a person may not be licensed or certified as a child care provider if he or she has been convicted or adjudged delinquent on or after his or her 12th birthday for committing felony misappropriation of property or a crime against a financial institution that is a felony, and that a person may not be licensed or certified as a child care provider or permitted to be a caregiver or nonclient resident of a child care provider if he or she has been so convicted or adjudged for committing a crime against children that is a felony; felony spousal battery; one of certain violent felonies; providing false information or intentionally withholding information for purposes of a background investigation; public assistance fraud; or, if he or she completed his or her sentence within the last five years, felony battery, carjacking, hazing, or failure to pay child support or a drug or alcohol-related felony.
- Requires a background investigation that includes a search of the sex offender registry to be conducted every three months for a licensed or certified child care



Individually, freshman legislators may find it difficult to influence events. Collectively, however, they can be very influential. Representatives Mike Kuglitsch (left) of New Berlin and John Klenke of Green Bay are part of a large Republican freshman class that swept the GOP back into power in the 2010 elections. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)



Senator Dave Hansen, here conferring with Senator Randy Hopper, is the Assistant Senate Minority Leader. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

provider and annually for a caregiver or nonclient resident of such a provider. Former law required investigations every four years and included in the investigation only a criminal history, abuse record, and credential status search.

Act 94 (SB-288) incorporates the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, which governs Indian child custody proceedings, into the Children’s Code and Juvenile Justice Code. The act requires notice of an out-of-home care or involuntary termination of parental rights (TPR) proceeding involving an Indian child to be provided to the child’s tribe; requires the juvenile court, subject to certain exceptions, to transfer such a proceeding to the tribal court upon petition of the Indian child’s parent, Indian custodian, or tribe; prohibits a juvenile court from ordering an out-of-home care placement of or an involuntary TPR to an Indian child unless the court finds that continued custody of the child by his or her parent or Indian custodian is likely to result in serious emotional or physical damage to the child and that active efforts have been made to prevent the breakup of the child’s family; and establishes an order of placement preference for an Indian child who is placed in an out-of-home care or adoptive placement under which, subject to certain exceptions, the child must be placed with an extended family member or in another Indian home.

Constitutional Amendment

Enrolled Joint Resolution 40 (Senate Joint Resolution 61), proposed by the 2009 legislature on first consideration, prohibits the governor, in exercising his or her partial veto power over an appropriations bill, from partially vetoing parts of bill sections of an enrolled bill without rejecting the entire bill section. To become part of the constitution, it must be concurred in by the 2011 legislature and ratified by the electorate.

Correctional System

Act 28 (AB-75) makes the following changes to sentencing for crimes:

- Allows most persons sentenced for a crime to earn positive adjustment time (PAT), serve fewer days confined in prison, and serve a shorter period of community supervision. Under the act, persons earn PAT at different rates, depending on the seriousness of the person’s crime, whether the person is considered a high risk for reoffending, and other factors. Criminals who are

ineligible to earn PAT include most sex offenders; persons who commit crimes against elderly persons or on school grounds; persons who commit crimes involving governmental ethics, strangulation or suffocation, felony murder, or kidnapping; and persons who commit certain crimes against children.

- Allows the Department of Corrections (DOC) to grant a prisoner early release to community supervision if the prisoner successfully participates in a rehabilitative program.
- Allows DOC to release to community supervision a person who committed a nonviolent misdemeanor or lower-level felony if the release occurs not more than 12 months before the person would otherwise be released from prison and if the prison social worker or extended supervision agent has reason to believe that the person will not engage in assaultive behavior when he or she is released.
- Allows DOC to release a prisoner with an extraordinary health condition under certain circumstances.
- Allows a sentencing court to expunge a record of conviction if the conviction carried a penalty of six years of imprisonment or less, the person committed the crime when he or she was under the age of 25, the person committed no other felonies or violent crimes, and the person completed his or her sentence.
- Allows a sentencing court to reduce a person's sentence if the person successfully participates in a rehabilitative program.

Crime and Criminal Procedure

Act 24 (*SB-51*) changes the laws relating to John Doe proceedings. Former law required a judge to convene a proceeding to evaluate an allegation that a crime had been committed. Under the act, a judge need not convene a proceeding unless the person making the allegation is a district attorney; instead, the judge must forward the allegation to the district attorney. The district attorney has 90 days to file charges or to forward all information to the appropriate judge along with an explanation of why he or she did not file charges. The judge may then convene a proceeding if the judge decides a proceeding is necessary to evaluate the allegation.

Domestic Relations

Act 28 (*AB-75*) establishes that two persons of the same sex who are each at least 18 years old, living together, and not nearer of kin than second cousins may form a domestic partnership by applying for a declaration of domestic partnership to the county clerk of the county in which at least one of them has lived for at least 30 days. The act specifies how a domestic partnership may be terminated and the benefits that apply to domestic partners.

Education

Collective Bargaining

Act 28 (*AB-75*) repeals the Qualified Economic Offer (QEO) so that school districts and teachers are generally subject to the same interest arbitration procedures as other municipal employers and employees and permits teachers and nonprofessional employees of a school district to combine into one collective bargaining unit. The act also exempts an arbitrator who is determining an arbitration award involving school district employees from the requirement to give greatest weight to laws limiting expenditures that may be made, or revenues that may be collected, by the municipal employer and the requirement to give greater weight to economic conditions in the jurisdiction of the municipal employer than to other specified factors.

Act 28 gives faculty and academic staff of the University of Wisconsin System the right to bargain collectively over wages, hours, and conditions of employment similar to the right given to state employees under the State Employment Labor Relations Act (SELRA).

Act 28 also grants UW System research assistants collective bargaining rights under SELRA.

Higher Education

Act 28 (*AB-75*) provides that a person who is not a U.S. citizen is exempt from the payment of nonresident tuition at the UW System and the Wisconsin Technical College System if he or she graduated from high school in this state, was continuously present in this state for at least three

years, and provides proof that he or she has applied for a permanent residence visa or will apply for one as soon as he or she is eligible to do so.

Primary and Secondary Education

Act 28 (AB-75) makes the following changes to the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP), under which a pupil who resides in the city of Milwaukee may attend a private school at state expense under certain conditions:

- Requires nonaccredited private schools applying for the first time to participate in the MPCP to obtain preaccreditation from the Institute for the Transformation of Learning at Marquette University.
- Requires MPCP schools to adopt pupil academic standards and written criteria for promoting pupils from grades 4 to 5 and 8 to 9 and for granting a high school diploma; to provide at least 1,050 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 1 to 6 and at least 1,137 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 7 to 12; and to administer to MPCP pupils all standardized tests required under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, the Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) 3rd grade standardized reading test, and the standardized tests approved by the State Superintendent for grades 4, 8, and 10.
- Requires teacher's aides to have a high school diploma and requires all administrators and, with some exceptions, teachers to have a bachelor's degree.
- Requires MPCP schools to annually schedule at least two meetings between the school's governing body and pupils, or their parents or guardians, attending or applying to the school.
- Requires MPCP schools to provide to DPI, each applicant, and, upon request, to a current pupil, certain information, including the names of the school's governing body members and any shareholders; whether the school is operated for profit; the school's nonharassment, suspension, and expulsion policies; and the school's policy governing visitors. In addition, the school must supply to DPI, and upon request to applicants and current pupils, certain information, including the school's academic standards and information about the number of MPCP and non-MPCP pupils in the school who advanced from grades 4 to 5 and 8 to 9 and who obtained a high school diploma.
- Requires an MPCP school to maintain its pupil records while a pupil attends, and for at least five years after the pupil leaves, the school. If a school closes, it must transfer its pupil records to Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) or, with the pupil's written permission, to an organization with which the school is affiliated.
- Permits DPI to bar a private school from participating in the MPCP if the school employs teacher's aides that do not have a high school diploma; fails to adopt pupil academic standards; fails to schedule at least two annual meetings between pupils and the school's governing body; fails to exempt pupils from religious activities upon their request; fails to provide to DPI and to pupils attending or applying to the school the information required under the act; fails to maintain pupil records; fails to establish a written policy governing visitors; or fails to issue high school diplomas.
- Establishes a priority order for MPCP schools to accept new MPCP pupils when the number of pupils attending under the MPCP falls below the maximum and prohibits MPCP schools from rejecting pupils unless the school has reached its capacity.
- Sets the maximum per pupil payment under the MPCP at \$6,442 in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years. Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, the amount is adjusted based on the percentage increase in total funding for general school aid.
- Directs DPI to pay the city of Milwaukee, from the general school aid appropriation, an amount equal to 3.4 percent of the cost of the MPCP in 2009-10 and 6.6 percent of the cost of the MPCP in each fiscal year thereafter. The

city must then pay that amount to the MPS. The result is a decrease in the amount that general school aid to MPS is reduced in order to fund the MPCP program.

- Requires a private school that wishes to participate in the MPCP to pay an annual nonrefundable fee to DPI. DPI must set the fee at the amount needed to generate sufficient revenue to pay the costs of an auditor to evaluate the financial information submitted by the private schools participating in the MPCP.

Act 215 (SB-437) requires a school board to implement certain reform initiatives if the school district has been in need of improvement for four consecutive school years or if a school located in such a school district was in the lowest performing 5 percent of all schools in the state in the previous school year. The act also allows the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to direct a school board to implement certain reform initiatives. The act also prohibits a school board from granting tenure or permanent employment to a principal or assistant principal.

Act 250 (SB-25) permits a resident of a school district to object to the use of a race-based nickname, logo, mascot, or team name by that district by filing a complaint with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Act 302 (SB-146) provides benefits and protections to tribal schools and tribal school pupils and staff similar to those provided to private schools and private school pupils and staff.

Employment

Act 3 (SB-4) regulates employers of traveling sales crews. The act:

- Requires the employer to undergo a background investigation and register with the Department of Workforce Development; establish proof of financial responsibility; disclose in writing the terms of employment when offering an individual employment as a traveling sales worker; pay its workers at least semimonthly on regularly scheduled paydays; maintain and operate motor vehicles, and ensure that hazardous materials are stored, handled, and transported in compliance with all applicable safety standards; have in force motor vehicle and general liability insurance policies and provide worker's compensation



Representative Dan Knodl, Assistant Majority Leader, addresses the Assembly. (Jay Savo, Legislative Photographer)



The floor leader of the majority party puts the majority caucus' agenda into action. The minority floor leader advocates his party's position and attempts to influence legislation despite a numerical disadvantage. Assembly Majority Leader Scott Suder (left) explains the Republican agenda to Minority Leader Peter Barca. (Ting-Li Wang, Legislative Photographer)

coverage; notify the clerk of a municipality and local law enforcement when its workers will be engaging in sales activities in the municipality; and keep records of its workers and the municipalities in which they operate.

- Prohibits the employer from employing minors; requiring its workers to engage in sales activities before or after certain hours; considering a worker to be an independent contractor; requiring a worker, subject to certain exceptions, to purchase any goods or services solely from the employer or to pay any of the employer's business expenses; abandoning a worker who is sick or injured or who has been discharged for reasons other than misconduct without providing for his or her return home; requiring a worker to relinquish custody of any personal property; prohibiting or restricting a worker from contacting family or friends; inflicting or threatening to inflict bodily harm or damage to property to discipline or motivate a worker; or advising its workers to falsely represent to consumers their motivations for selling goods or services.

Act 20 (SB-20) authorizes a circuit court to order an employer, other than a local government, employing 15 or more individuals that has engaged in employment discrimination to pay compensatory and punitive damages to the person discriminated against, subject to certain limitations on the amount of compensatory damages for noneconomic losses and punitive damages that may be awarded based on the number of employees. Former law authorized awarding only back pay, front pay, costs, and attorney fees.

Act 28 (AB-75) applies the prevailing wage law, which requires an employee performing certain work on a public works project to be paid the prevailing wage for the employee's trade or occupation, to publicly funded private construction projects that receive at least \$1,000,000 in direct financial assistance from a local government; applies that law to certain public infrastructure projects, such as roads and sewers, acquired by or dedicated to a local government; and lowers the threshold for applicability of that law to a public works project from an estimated cost of project completion of \$234,000 for a multiple-trade project and \$48,000 for a single-trade project to an estimated cost of project completion of \$25,000, regardless of whether the project involves single trade or multiple trades.

Environment

Act 50 (SB-107) requires manufacturers of computers, printers, and video display devices, such as televisions and computer monitors, that are marketed for use by households and schools to recycle certain electronic devices used by households and schools (consumer electronic waste). Consumer electronic waste includes computer peripherals, video cassette recorders, and digital video disc players, as well as computers, printers, and video display devices. The act sets an annual target weight for each manufacturer's recycling efforts based on the weight of the manufacturer's computers, printers, and video display devices sold in Wisconsin. If a manufacturer falls short of its target, it must pay a fee based on the size of the shortfall unless the manufacturer demonstrates to the Department of Natural Resources that it made a good faith effort to reach the target. The act also prohibits incineration or disposal in landfills of certain kinds of electronic devices, including computers, printers, video display devices, computer peripherals, video cassette recorders, digital video disc players, and telephones with video displays.

Financial Institutions

Act 2 (SB-62) implements the federal S.A.F.E. Act of 2008 by adopting federally established standards for mortgage loan originators. The act requires the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) to participate in a nationwide registry for licensing mortgage loan originators. An applicant for a mortgage loan originator license must undergo a background check that includes a credit and criminal history check. If the background check reveals certain offenses, the applicant cannot receive a mortgage loan originator license. The act creates a number of new violations, and modifies certain preexisting violations, relating to prohibited acts and practices of mortgage bankers, mortgage brokers, and mortgage loan originators (licensees), including prohibiting licensees from conducting business at an unlicensed office; prohibiting licensees from earning a fee through "best efforts" to obtain a residential mortgage loan even if no loan is actually obtained; prohibiting the solicitation or advertisement of interest rates or other financing terms

unless the rates or terms are actually available; prohibiting attempts to influence a person's independent judgment, including an appraiser's, in connection with a residential mortgage loan; and prohibiting the practice of requiring borrowers to obtain excessive property insurance coverage. The act increases the penalty for violations, increases the recoverable damages in civil actions from a maximum of \$2,000 to a maximum of \$25,000, increases the number of violations for which these penalties apply, and allows DFI to order restitution in administrative proceedings.

Act 188 (AB-471) specifies that DFI-licensed mortgage brokers have an agency relationship with their residential mortgage loan clients and owe them certain duties, including a duty to act in good faith and in the client's best interest, refrain from charging or accepting undisclosed compensation, carry out the lawful instructions of the client, disclose material facts to the client, present loan options in an objective manner, use reasonable care, and account for all money and property received as the client's agent. These duties may not be waived and each mortgage broker must disclose to its client the parties' agency relationship and the mortgage broker's duties.

Act 405 (SB-530) prohibits a lender that is not a financial institution from making a payday loan to a Wisconsin resident unless licensed by DFI, and regulates payday loans by limiting loan amounts, prohibiting post-maturity interest, and requiring disclosures about rolling over, rescinding, and repaying payday loans. The act defines "payday loan," in part, as a loan in which a lender holds a borrower's checks or electronic fund transfer authorizations for a period before cashing the checks or initiating the authorizations. The act applies regardless of whether a payday lender is physically located in this state. In addition, the act requires DFI to establish a payday loan database for licensed payday lenders to comply with the act. The act also prohibits certain loans that are secured by motor vehicles, other than loans for purchasing motor vehicles, and that are made by lenders who are not financial institutions.

Health and Social Services

Health

Act 12 (SB-181) makes numerous changes to the law restricting smoking, effective July 5, 2010. The act:

- Expands the indoor smoking ban to include all enclosed places or places of employment, including all restaurants, taverns, hotels and other lodging establishments, private clubs, and correctional facilities.
- Eliminates the authority to designate smoking areas at any indoor location.
- Prohibits smoking in sports arenas, bus shelters, and public conveyances, which include taxis.
- Exempts from the ban smoking in private residences, in certain residence rooms in assisted living facilities, and in certain tobacco bars and retail tobacco stores that existed on June 3, 2009.
- Provides that if a city, village, town, or county enacts an ordinance prohibiting outdoor smoking, the ordinance applies only to public property under the jurisdiction of the city, village, town, or county and must provide that a person in charge of a restaurant, tavern, private club, or retail establishment may designate an outdoor smoking area on the public property, such as a sidewalk, that is within a reasonable distance of the entrance to the club or business.

Medical Assistance

Act 2 (SB-62) increases the assessment on hospitals from \$1.5 million annually to \$275 million. The act exempts critical access hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, and institutions for mental diseases from the assessment. The act specifies a portion of hospital assessment revenue that must be expended on increased hospital reimbursement rates under the Medical Assistance (MA) program and provides for supplemental payments for certain types of hospitals. The remainder of the hospital assessment revenue is allocated for general MA expenditures.

Public Assistance

Act 76 (SB-331) makes the following changes relating to public assistance and Wisconsin Shares:



Senator Fred Risser of Madison illustrates his point on the Voter ID bill. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

- Requires an employee of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), a county, or a tribe who reasonably suspects public assistance fraud to report that suspicion immediately to the employee's immediate supervisor and the immediate supervisor to report that suspicion immediately to the DCF fraud investigation unit and, in certain populous counties, the sheriff, and provides immunity from liability and protection against disciplinary action for a person who makes such a report in good faith.
- Requires DCF or a county to refuse to pay a child provider under Wisconsin Shares if the child care provider or a caregiver or nonclient resident of the provider has been convicted or adjudged delinquent on or after his or her 12th birthday for committing a serious crime and to suspend those payments immediately if any of those individuals is the subject of a pending criminal charge or delinquency petition alleging that the individual committed such a serious crime until DCF or the county obtains information that the provider is eligible to receive those payments.
- Provides that if a recipient of a child care subsidy under Wisconsin Shares violates any law or rule relating to that subsidy, the individual is ineligible for the subsidy for up to five years from the date of the judgment or decision.

Other

Act 219 (SB-484) authorizes the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish and, until January 1, 2014, operate the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan, which provides coverage of limited primary and preventive health care benefits to individuals who are eligible, but on the waiting list, for coverage under the MA BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for childless adults. The act provides that benefits under the Basic Plan may not exceed the benefits under the Core Plan; that costs will be paid through premiums collected from covered individuals; that DHS may set a deductible for inpatient and nonemergency outpatient hospital services that does not exceed \$7,500 per year, as well other cost sharing; and that, except for payments to federally qualified health centers and hospital outlier payments, DHS must pay a provider that provides a service to a covered

individual an amount that is not less than the amount that would be paid for the service under MA.

Insurance

Act 28 (*AB-75*) makes the following changes relating to motor vehicle insurance:

- Requires all motor vehicle insurance policies to have uninsured motorist coverage and underinsured motorist coverage, each with limits of at least \$100,000 per person and \$300,000 per accident.
- Prohibits a motor vehicle insurance policy from providing that uninsured or underinsured motorist coverage limits, or medical payments limits, under more than one policy covering more than one vehicle may not be added together (commonly known as “stacking”) to determine the total coverage limit, but allows a policy to limit the number of motor vehicles for which the limits may be added (or “stacked”) to three motor vehicles. Under former law, a policy could prohibit stacking.



Even in contentious times, Representatives Robin Vos (left) and Mark Pocan find the distance across the aisle is not too great. (Ting-Li Wang, Legislative Photographer)

Act 28 also makes the following changes to health and other insurance laws:

- Requires health insurance policies and governmental self-insured health plans to cover treatment for autism spectrum disorders if the treatment is provided by specified, qualified providers. With annual adjustments for inflation, policies and plans must cover at least \$50,000 in intensive-level services per insured per year for at least four years, and at least \$25,000 in nonintensive level services per insured per year.
- Requires health insurance policies and governmental self-insured health plans, at the request of an applicant or insured, to provide coverage for an adult child of the applicant or insured if the child is under 27 years old, not married, and not eligible for employer-provided coverage that costs the same or less than the cost of covering the child as a dependent. If the child’s education was interrupted by active duty in the national guard or reserves, the child may be covered if he or she is a full-time student, regardless of age.

Act 218 (*SB-362*) requires the exclusions and limitations; deductibles; copayments; coinsurance; annual and lifetime limits; out-of-pocket limits; out-of-network charges; day, visit, or appointment limits; referral limits; and duration or frequency of coverage limits for coverage of the treatment of nervous and mental disorders and alcoholism and other drug abuse problems under group health benefit plans and governmental self-insured health plans, both of which are required to provide that coverage, and under individual health benefit plans that, although not required to, also provide that coverage, to be no more restrictive than the most common or frequent type of treatment limitations applied to substantially all other coverage under such plans. The act provides exceptions from the requirement for group health benefit plans covering employers with fewer than 10 employees and group health benefit plans that experience certain specified cost increases as a result of the requirement.

Local Law

Act 40 (*SB-185*) requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to promulgate rules for political subdivisions to regulate the construction and operation of wind energy systems with a nominal operating capacity of less than 100 megawatts. In promulgating the rules, the PSC must consult with the Wind Siting Council, which the act creates. If a political subdivision chooses to regulate such wind energy systems, its ordinances may not be more restrictive than the PSC rules. The act also allows a person who is aggrieved by a political subdivision's action on an application to construct such a wind energy system, or by a political subdivision's enforcement action regarding such a wind energy system, to appeal to the PSC, which may issue an order superseding the political subdivision's action.

Act 405 (*SB-530*) limits the locations in which a payday lender licensed by DFI may operate based on its proximity to other licensed payday lenders or residential zoning districts, but authorizes a political subdivision to enact a zoning ordinance that is more restrictive than the conditions the act establishes. A political subdivision may enforce its existing regulations on payday lenders if those regulations are at least as restrictive as the provisions in the act, and an existing payday lender may continue to do business at a nonconforming location.

Real Estate

Act 4 (*SB-9*) allows a buyer in a residential real estate transaction to sue the seller in tort for fraud or intentional misrepresentation. The act reverses a Wisconsin Supreme Court decision that allowed economic damages only for breach of contract, under the economic loss doctrine, in residential real estate transactions involving fraud or intentional misrepresentations.

State Government

Act 363 (*SB-227*) establishes a process for selecting interim successors for legislators if, during a state of emergency, nine or more senate seats or 25 or more assembly seats are vacant at the same time. For each vacancy, the act directs the leader of the party of the member whose seat is vacant to select an interim successor from a list of people who are eligible to serve and are nominated by local party officials.

Taxation

Act 2 (*SB-62*) requires all related corporations to file a combined report for state income and franchise tax purposes and calculate their state tax liability based on the business activity of all the related corporations. The act also adopts the substantive provisions of the multistate Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement.

Act 28 (*AB-75*) provides property tax exemptions for benevolent low-income housing, housing projects financed by the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, benevolent retirement homes for the aged, and all property owned by the Wisconsin Quality Home Care Authority.

Transportation

Act 28 (*AB-75*) prohibits a person from operating a motor vehicle in Wisconsin unless the owner or operator has a motor vehicle liability insurance policy in effect providing coverage in the following minimum amounts for an accident: from January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2016, \$50,000 for bodily injury to or death of one person, \$100,000 for bodily injury to or death of more than one person, and \$15,000 for property damage; and, after December 31, 2016, the

amounts just described, adjusted for inflation. However, there are exceptions to this insurance requirement, including for government-owned vehicles, self-insurers, and persons who post a bond or deposit cash in lieu of obtaining liability insurance. The act retains the financial responsibility requirements under preexisting law but increases the minimum amounts acceptable as proof of financial responsibility to match the insurance coverage amounts described above.

Act 28 also provides for primary enforcement of motor vehicle seat belt use requirements.

Act 100 (*SB-66*) makes several changes to the laws relating to drunken driving. The act:

- Requires a judge to limit a person's operating privilege, for at least one year, to operating vehicles that are equipped with an ignition interlock device if the person commits a first drunken driving offense with an alcohol concentration of 0.15 or more or the person commits a second or subsequent drunken driving offense.
- Imposes a 45-day waiting period before a person with two or more drunken driving offenses may obtain an occupational driver's license. The act also requires a person whose driver's license is revoked for a drunken driving offense to pay \$140 above the current \$60 fee to have his or her driving privilege reinstated.
- Eliminates the reduced fees for persons who commit a first drunken driving offense with an alcohol concentration between 0.08 and 0.10.
- Makes committing a first drunken driving offense a crime if, at the time of the offense, a child under the age of 16 was present in the vehicle involved in the offense.
- Increases the minimum period of imprisonment for a third drunken driving offense to 45 days.
- Makes a fourth drunken driving offense committed within five years of a prior offense a Class H felony and requires a person who commits a fourth drunken driving offense within five years to pay a minimum fine of \$600 and to serve a minimum term of six months' imprisonment.
- Requires a person who commits a seventh, eighth, or ninth drunken driving offense to serve a minimum period of confinement in prison of three years.
- Requires a person who commits a tenth or subsequent drunken driving offense to serve a minimum period of confinement in prison of four years.
- Makes the commission of a second or subsequent drunken driving offense that causes injury to another person a Class H felony.
- Allows any county in the state to adopt a sentencing scheme that allows a violator to complete a period of probation that includes alcohol and other drug treatment in exchange for a shorter period of imprisonment.
- Extends the period of a driver's license revocation for a drunken driving offense by the number of days that the person is required to spend in jail or prison.
- Allows a court to place on probation a person who commits a second, third, or fourth drunken driving offense but requires that the person be incarcerated for at least the mandatory minimum period as a condition of his or her probation.
- Increases the maximum period of probation for a fourth drunken driving offense from one year to three years.
- Increases the criminal offense fee from \$20 to \$163.
- In most circumstances, prohibits a court from releasing a person after conviction but before sentencing if the person has been convicted of a third or subsequent drunken driving offense unless the court places the person on probation.
- Requires a person who is ordered to install an ignition interlock device and who participates in the Huber Law Program to submit, within two weeks of his or her sentencing date, proof that he or she has complied with the order.
- Allocates monies to the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) and requires the Department of Administration, on behalf of and with the assistance of the state public defender, director of state courts, district attorneys, the Department of

Justice, and DOC, to submit budget requests to JCF in order to cover the costs of the act.

- Allocates monies to DOC to provide community probation supervision, to fund a monitoring center, and to fund enhanced community treatment for persons convicted of a second or third drunken driving offense.

Act 135 (*AB-592*) allows certain historic military vehicles to be registered in a manner similar to antique vehicles, even if they do not meet federal motor vehicle safety standards for on-highway operation. These historic military vehicles are subject to significant restrictions on highway operation. The act also limits the Department of Transportation in registering former military vehicles not meeting federal motor vehicle safety standards in other vehicle registration categories.

Act 225 (*SB-392*) allows certain former military vehicles known as Pinzgauers, Kaiser Jeeps, Humvees, and Ducks to be registered as a type of collector vehicle. These vehicles may be registered even if they were originally designed and manufactured for off-highway operation and do not meet federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Regional Transit Authorities

Act 28 does the following:

- Creates the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SERTA), a successor entity to the regional transit authority consisting of the counties of Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee and commonly referred to as the KRM authority, which is terminated by the act. In contrast to the KRM authority, whose authority was essentially limited to coordinating transit programs, conducting a study, and preparing a report, the SERTA has all powers necessary and convenient to create, construct, and manage a commuter rail transit system connecting the cities of Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee (KRM commuter rail line). The SERTA consists of the counties of Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee and its jurisdictional area is the geographic area formed by these counties. The powers of the SERTA are vested in its board of directors. The SERTA may impose a rental car transaction fee in its jurisdictional area of not more than \$18 per transaction, although this fee may be adjusted annually for inflation. Most of the revenues from this fee are retained by SERTA for expenditures related to the KRM commuter rail line. The SERTA may also issue revenue bonds in a principal amount not exceeding \$50 million for expenditures related to the KRM commuter rail line. The SERTA must submit an application to the Federal Transit Administration under the federal New Starts Grant Program to enter the preliminary engineering phase for the KRM commuter rail line.
- Authorizes the creation of several additional regional transit authorities (RTAs): the Dane County RTA, the Chippewa Valley RTA, and the Chequamegon Bay RTA. Each RTA's authority is vested in its board of directors, and its bylaws govern its management, operations, and administration. An RTA may operate a transportation system or provide for its operation by contracting with a public or private organization; impose a sales and use tax in the RTA's jurisdictional area at a rate not exceeding 0.5 percent if certain conditions are satisfied; acquire property by condemnation; and issue tax-exempt revenue bonds. An RTA must provide, or contract for the provision of, transit service within the RTA's jurisdictional area. An RTA may use its revenue only for the general expenses and capital expenditures of the RTA, to pay interest, amortization, and retirement charges on the RTA's revenue bonds, and for specific purposes of the RTA and may not transfer any revenue to any political subdivision.

MAJOR PROPOSALS THAT FAILED ENACTMENT OR ADOPTION

Agriculture

Senate Bill 434 would have authorized dairy farmers to sell unpasteurized milk (also called raw milk) directly to consumers until December 31, 2011.

Children

Assembly Bill 590 would have permitted a determination of child abuse or neglect based solely on the fact that the child's parent relies on prayer or other religious means for treatment of disease or for remedial care of the child.

Assembly Bill 732 and *Senate Bill 674* would have raised from 17 to 18 the age at which an adult criminal court, rather than the juvenile court, has jurisdiction over a person who violates a criminal law.

Education

Senate Bill 223 would have required that at least one of the 14 citizen members of the UW System Board of Regents reside in each of the seven geographical areas of the state delineated in the bill.

Assembly Bills 615 and *669*, *Senate Bills 405* and *462*, and *December 2009 Special Session Assembly Bill 2* would have modified the governance structure of MPS.

Elections

Assembly Bill 895 and *Senate Bill 640* would have made extensive changes to voter registration, absentee voting, prohibited practices, and other election laws.

Employment

Senate Bill 1 and *Assembly Bill 41* would have increased the state minimum wage and permitted local governments to enact local living wage ordinances.

Senate Bill 2 and *Assembly Bill 40* would have eliminated the \$3,000 cap on the amount of unpaid wages covered under a wage claim lien that takes precedence over a lien of a commercial lending institution, granted a wage claim lien precedence over the rights of a purchaser of any property of the employer, and permitted a collective bargaining representative to file a wage claim lien on behalf of an employee.

Environment

Assembly Bill 138 would have authorized the Natural Resources Board, rather than the governor, to appoint the secretary of natural resources.

Public Utilities

Assembly Bill 516 and *Senate Bill 340* would have eliminated limits on the PSC's authorization of nuclear power plant construction.

Assembly Bill 649 and *Senate Bill 450*, referred to as the "Clean Energy Jobs Act," would have implemented recommendations of the governor's Global Warming Task Force by making changes to energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable resource programs that energy utilities and certain cooperatives are required to administer or fund; annual deadlines for electric utilities and certain cooperatives to ensure that specified percentages of retail electric sales are derived from renewable energy; and requirements for PSC authorization of nuclear power plants construction.

Assembly Bill 696 and *Senate Bill 469* would have limited the PSC's authority over incumbent and competitive local exchange carriers and made other changes to telecommunications law, including specifying the PSC's authority over voice over Internet protocol service.

Transportation

Assembly Bills 282, *723*, *734*, and *791* and *Senate Bills 205* and *511* would have authorized the creation of RTAs in additional areas of the state beyond the areas where RTAs are authorized under Act 28.

Scenes of the 2011 protests over collective bargaining rights ...



(Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)



(Jay Salvo and Ting-Li Wang, Legislative Photographers)



(Ting-Li Wang and Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographers)



(Photos clockwise from top: Jim Winkle, Jay Salvo, Sarah Girkin, Katherine Davey, Sarah Girkin)