

Legislative Branch

The legislative branch: profile of the legislative branch, description of the legislative process, summary of 2011-12 legislation, and description of legislative committees and service agencies

Pendarvis



(Wisconsin Historical Society)

OFFICERS OF THE 2013 LEGISLATURE

SENATE

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

Majority Party Officers

Minority Party Officers

Leader Senator Scott L. Fitzgerald
Assistant leader Senator Glenn Grothman
Caucus chairperson Senator Frank G. Lasee
Caucus vice chairperson Senator Sheila E. Harsdorf
Caucus sergeant at arms None
Senator Chris Larson
Senator Dave Hansen
Senator Julie M. Lassa
Senator Kathleen Vinehout
Senator Nikiya Harris

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 Robin J. Vos
Speaker pro tempore Representative Tyler August
Chief clerk Honorable Patrick E. Fuller
Sergeant at arms Honorable Anne Tonnon Byers

Majority Party Officers

Minority Party Officers

Leader Representative Bill Kramer
Assistant leader Representative Jim Steineke
Caucus chairperson Representative Joan Ballweg
Caucus vice chairperson Representative John Murtha
Caucus secretary Representative Mary Williams
Caucus sergeant at arms Representative Samantha Kerkman
Representative Peter W. Barca
Representative Sandy Pasch
Representative Andy Jorgensen
Representative JoCasta Zamarripa
Representative Janis Ringhand
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 2013 Legislature is the 101st Wisconsin Legislature. It convened on January 7, 2013, and will continue until January 5, 2015.

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 both 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 2013 Legislature: Senate: 33 members, 202 employees (including senators); Assembly: 99 members, 317 employees (including representatives).

Total Budget 2011-13: \$150,455,400 (including service agencies).

Constitutional Reference: Article IV.

Statutory Reference: Chapter 13, Subchapter I.

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

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

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

Under the campaign finance reporting law enacted by the 1973 Legislature, candidates for the legislature, as well as for other public offices, are required to make full, detailed disclosure of their campaign contributions and expenditures. Candidates must make this disclosure to the Elections Division of the Government Accountability Board. Limits are placed on the amounts of contributions received from individuals and various committees. State law also requires legislators and candidates for legislative office to file a statement of their economic interests with the Ethics and Accountability Division of the Government Accountability Board.

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.

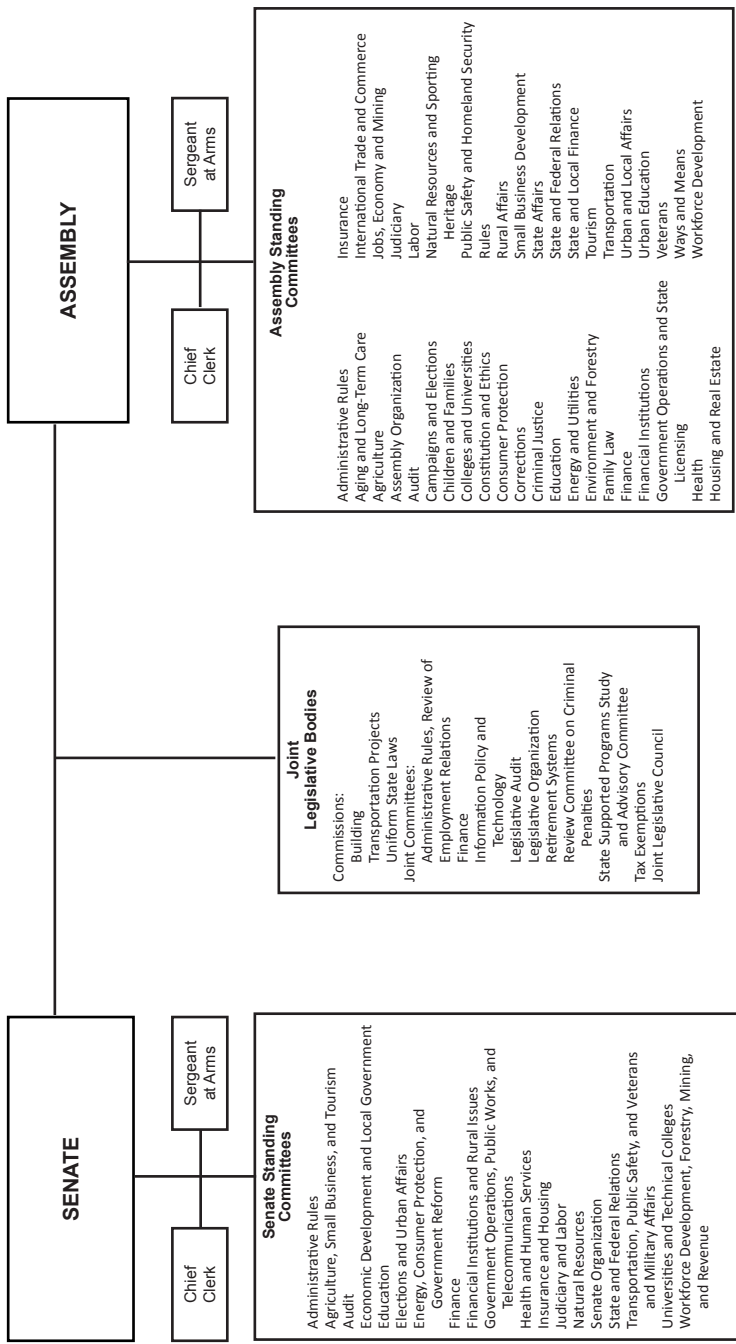
Party organization in the legislature is based on the party group called the “caucus”. In each house, all members of a particular political party form that party’s caucus. Thus, there are four caucuses related to the party divisions in the two houses. The primary purpose of a caucus is to help party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

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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 2013 Legislature convened on January 7, 2013, 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



Senators Michael Ellis (left) and Fred Risser are approaching a combined 100 years of legislative service, a milestone unique in Wisconsin history. Ellis, a Republican, is President of the Senate; since 1979, Risser has served as President during periods of Democratic control. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

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 2013-2014 session schedule, for example, is structured around 15 floorperiods, with periods of committee work interspersed throughout the biennium.

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

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

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

In addition, the governor has the authority to call a “special session”, in which the legislature can act only upon matters specifically mentioned in the governor’s call. As of the adjournment of the 2011 Legislature, there had been 90 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

2013-2014 SESSION SCHEDULE

January 7, 2013	2013 Inauguration
January 9 and 10, 2013	Floorperiod
January 15 to 17, 2013	Floorperiod
January 29 to 31, 2013	Floorperiod
February 12 to 14, 2013	Floorperiod
February 26 to March 7, 2013	Floorperiod
March 21, 2013	Deadline for sending bills to governor
April 9 to 18, 2013	Floorperiod
May 7 to 16, 2013	Floorperiod
June 4 to 28, 2013 (or until passage of the budget)	Floorperiod
August 8, 2013	Deadline for sending nonbudget bills to governor
August 8, 2013 (or later)	Deadline for sending budget bill to governor*
September 17 to 19, 2013	Floorperiod
October 8 to 17, 2013	Floorperiod
November 5 to 14, 2013	Floorperiod
December 12, 2013	Deadline for sending bills to governor
January 14 to 23, 2014	Floorperiod
February 11 to 20, 2014	Floorperiod
March 11 to 20, 2014	Floorperiod
April 1 to 3, 2014	Last general-business floorperiod
April 24, 2014	Deadline for sending bills to governor
April 29 to May 1, 2014	Limited-business floorperiod
May 8, 2014	Deadline for sending bills to governor
May 20 and 21, 2014	Veto review floorperiod
May 2, 2014 to January 5, 2015	Interim committee work
June 4, 2014	Deadline for sending bills to governor
January 5, 2015	2015 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: 2013 Senate Joint Resolution 1.

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.)



Senator Dale Schultz (R-Richland Center) addresses the Senate on the mining bill, February 27, 2013. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Standing Committees. To a large extent, the legislature does its work in committees. In the 2013 Legislature, the senate has 17 standing committees, the assembly 41, and there are 10 joint standing committees, composed of members from both houses. Joint standing committees are created in the statutes and membership is determined by law. Regular standing committees are created under the rules of their respective houses.

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

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

In the assembly, the speaker determines the number of members of each committee and the division of membership between the majority and minority parties. Under assembly rules, the speaker appoints majority party committee members directly and minority party committee members upon nomination by the assembly minority leader. Customarily, every member serves on at least one committee, although the rules are silent on the distribution of committee assignments. The speaker may appoint himself or herself to one or more standing committees and is a nonvoting member of all others. By rule, the Committee on Assembly Organization is composed of the speaker, the speaker pro tempore, the majority and minority leaders, the assistant leaders, and the caucus chairpersons. The Committee on Rules includes all members of the organization committee plus one majority and one minority party member appointed by the speaker.

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

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

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

The legislature 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.



An early priority of the 2013 Legislature was the passage of legislation to reform the state's mining laws. The bill, Senate Bill 1, received a public hearing on January 23, 2013. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

**NEWS MEDIA CORRESPONDENTS
COVERING THE 2013 LEGISLATURE
January 7, 2013**

Organization	Correspondents	Telephone
Newspaper and Wire Services		
Appleton Post-Crescent	Ben Jones	255-9256
Associated Press	Scott Bauer, Todd Richmond	255-3679
Capital Times	Jack Craver, Jessica VanEgeren	262-6438/262-6424
Capitol News Service	Stan Milam	(608) 774-8584
Isthmus	Judith Davidoff	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	287-0130
Wisconsin Catholic Newspapers	John Huebscher	257-0004
Wisconsin State Journal	Dee Hall, Mary Spicuzza	252-6132/252-6122
Radio and Television		
WIBA-AM and FM (Madison)	John Colbert	251-1978/274-2995/ (608) 438-6853
WISC-TV (Madison)	Jessica Arp, Colin Benedict	(608) 332-9453/277-5246
WKOW-TV (Madison)	Tony Galli, Jennifer Kliese, Greg Neumann, Joseph Radske	
	Robyn Turner	273-2727
WMTV-TV (Madison)	Ryan Lobenstein, Zac Schultz	274-1500
WNWC-FM (Madison)	Bruce Barrows	271-1025
WOLX-FM (Madison)	Kitty Dunn	826-0077
Wisconsin Public Radio	Gilman Halsted, Shawn Johnson, Michael Leland, Shamane Mills	263-4358/263-7985
Wisconsin Public Television	Kathy Bissen, Frederica Freyberg, Andy Moore, Adam Schragar, Zac Schultz, Christine Sloan-Miller, Andy Soth, Joel Waldinger	263-2121/263-8496/ 263-6646/263-5628/ 263-8585/263-6023/ 263-7124/263-4599/ 890-2840
Wisconsin Radio Network	Andrew Beckett, Bob Hague, Jackie Johnson, Brian Moon	251-3900
Internet News Service		
Wispolitics.com	J.R. Ross, Mike Schramm, Jason Smathers, Andy Szal	441-8418

Sources: Assembly Sergeant at Arms.

THE LEGISLATURE ON THE INTERNET

Legislative Information

The Wisconsin Legislature's Internet home page at <http://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.

Documents 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.

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.org>.

Legislative Notification Service

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



Senator Joseph Leibham (R-Sheboygan), President Pro Tempore of the Senate, is responsible for taking the gavel when the President is absent or participating in floor debate. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

2010 POPULATION OF LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS
As Created by 2011 Wisconsin Act 43¹
2010 State Population – 5,686,986

District	2010 Population	Deviation from Ideal ²		District	2010 Population	Deviation from Ideal ²	
		Total	Percent			Total	Percent
SD-1	172,313	-20	-0.01%	SD-18	171,722	-611	-0.35%
AD-1	57,220	-224	-0.39	AD-52	57,232	-212	-0.37
AD-2	57,649	205	0.36	AD-53	57,240	-204	-0.36
AD-3	57,444	0	0.00	AD-54	57,250	-194	-0.34
SD-2	172,461	128	0.07	SD-19	172,576	243	0.14
AD-4	57,486	42	0.07	AD-55	57,493	49	0.08
AD-5	57,470	26	0.04	AD-56	57,582	138	0.24
AD-6	57,505	61	0.11	AD-57	57,501	57	0.10
SD-3	171,977	-356	-0.21	SD-20	172,003	-330	-0.19
AD-7	57,498	54	0.09	AD-58	57,227	-217	-0.38
AD-8	57,196	-248	-0.43	AD-59	57,391	-53	-0.09
AD-9	57,283	-161	-0.28	AD-60	57,385	-59	-0.10
SD-4	172,425	92	0.05	SD-21	172,324	-9	-0.01
AD-10	57,428	-16	-0.03	AD-61	57,614	170	0.30
AD-11	57,503	59	0.10	AD-62	57,345	-99	-0.17
AD-12	57,494	50	0.09	AD-63	57,365	-79	-0.14
SD-5	172,421	88	0.05	SD-22	172,270	-63	-0.04
AD-13	57,452	8	0.01	AD-64	57,270	-174	-0.30
AD-14	57,597	153	0.27	AD-65	57,455	11	0.02
AD-15	57,372	-72	-0.13	AD-66	57,545	101	0.18
SD-6	172,292	-41	-0.02	SD-23	172,149	-184	-0.11
AD-16	57,458	14	0.02	AD-67	57,239	-205	-0.36
AD-17	57,354	-90	-0.16	AD-68	57,261	-183	-0.32
AD-18	57,480	36	0.06	AD-69	57,649	205	0.36
SD-7	172,423	90	0.05	SD-24	172,520	187	0.11
AD-19	57,546	102	0.18	AD-70	57,552	108	0.19
AD-20	57,428	-16	-0.03	AD-71	57,519	75	0.13
AD-21	57,449	5	0.01	AD-72	57,449	5	0.01
SD-8	172,356	23	0.01	SD-25	172,409	76	0.04
AD-22	57,495	51	0.09	AD-73	57,453	9	0.02
AD-23	57,579	135	0.23	AD-74	57,494	50	0.09
AD-24	57,282	-162	-0.28	AD-75	57,462	18	0.03
SD-9	172,439	106	0.06	SD-26	172,596	263	0.15
AD-25	57,322	-122	-0.21	AD-76	57,617	173	0.30
AD-26	57,581	137	0.24	AD-77	57,433	-11	-0.02
AD-27	57,536	92	0.16	AD-78	57,546	102	0.18
SD-10	172,245	-88	-0.05	SD-27	172,449	116	0.07
AD-28	57,467	23	0.04	AD-79	57,461	17	0.03
AD-29	57,537	93	0.16	AD-80	57,585	141	0.24
AD-30	57,241	-203	-0.35	AD-81	57,403	-41	-0.07
SD-11	172,329	-4	-0.00	SD-28	172,218	-115	-0.07
AD-31	57,240	-204	-0.36	AD-82	57,430	-14	-0.02
AD-32	57,524	80	0.14	AD-83	57,423	-21	-0.04
AD-33	57,565	121	0.21	AD-84	57,365	-79	-0.14
SD-12	172,381	48	0.03	SD-29	172,292	-41	-0.02
AD-34	57,387	-57	-0.10	AD-85	57,480	36	0.06
AD-35	57,562	118	0.20	AD-86	57,454	10	0.02
AD-36	57,432	-12	-0.02	AD-87	57,358	-86	-0.15
SD-13	172,387	54	0.03	SD-30	172,798	465	0.27
AD-37	57,507	63	0.11	AD-88	57,556	112	0.19
AD-38	57,493	49	0.08	AD-89	57,634	190	0.33
AD-39	57,387	-57	-0.10	AD-90	57,608	164	0.28
SD-14	171,988	-345	-0.20	SD-31	172,338	5	0.00
AD-40	57,366	-78	-0.14	AD-91	57,359	-85	-0.15
AD-41	57,337	-107	-0.19	AD-92	57,431	-13	-0.02
AD-42	57,285	-159	-0.28	AD-93	57,548	104	0.18
SD-15	172,496	163	0.09	SD-32	172,122	-211	-0.12
AD-43	57,443	-1	-0.00	AD-94	57,266	-178	-0.31
AD-44	57,395	-49	-0.09	AD-95	57,372	-72	-0.13
AD-45	57,658	214	0.37	AD-96	57,484	40	0.07
SD-16	172,429	96	0.06	SD-33	172,288	-45	-0.03
AD-46	57,458	14	0.02	AD-97	57,279	-165	-0.29
AD-47	57,465	21	0.04	AD-98	57,513	69	0.12
AD-48	57,506	62	0.11	AD-99	57,496	52	0.09
SD-17	172,550	217	0.13				
AD-49	57,346	-98	-0.17				
AD-50	57,624	180	0.31				
AD-51	57,580	136	0.24				

¹This table reflects modifications made to Assembly Districts 8 and 9 by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin in its decision in *Baldus vs. Members of the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board*, Case No. 11-CV-562, April 11, 2012.

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

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, March 2011; *Appendix to: 2011 Wisconsin Act 43*. Assembly Districts 8 and 9 population and deviations calculated 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



Representative Evan Goyke, a freshman Democrat from Milwaukee, speaks in committee. Goyke's father, Gary, served in the Wisconsin Senate from 1975-1983. (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*, March 1, 2013:

The committee on **Workforce Development** reports and recommends:

Assembly Bill 15

Relating to: payment of unemployment insurance benefits under a work-sharing program.

Assembly Amendment 1 adoption:

Ayes: 16 – Representatives Loudenbeck, Petryk, Honadel, Pridemore, Knodl, Bernier, Kuglitsch, Severson, Born, Weatherston, Ringhand, Billings, Barnes, Kolste, Shankland and Wachs.

Noes: 0.

Passage as amended.

Ayes: 10 – Representatives Loudenbeck, Petryk, Honadel, Pridemore, Knodl, Bernier, Kuglitsch, Severson, Born and Weatherston.

Noes: 6 – Representatives Ringhand, Billings, Barnes, Kolste, Shankland and Wachs.

To calendar of March 6, 2013

Amy Loudenbeck

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 2013 Legislature, all proposals reported by senate standing committees are referred to the Committee on Senate Organization; in the assembly, they are referred to the Committee on Rules. These committees schedule business for floor debate.

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

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

Second Reading. Once a bill is scheduled for house action, the clerk gives it a second reading by title. The purpose of a second reading is to consider amendments. An amendment may be a “simple” amendment, which makes changes within the bill, or a “substitute amendment”, which



Any citizen may offer their opinion on legislation when it receives a public hearing in the committee to which it has been referred. Here the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections takes testimony. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

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. The bill may pass repeatedly between the two houses, or the legislature may create 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., 2013 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 following day

is the new law's official date of publication. On or before that date, copies of the act must be available to the public electronically. 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 official 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 *2011-2012 Wisconsin Statutes* includes all statutory changes resulting from laws enacted by the 2011 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: <http://legis.state.wi.us/lrb/pubs/bluebook.htm>.

2013-2014 LEGISLATIVE SERVICE

The complete 2013-2014 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 2013-2014 Legislative Service will expire on December 31, 2014.

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
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Governor Scott Walker greeted members on his way to the podium to deliver his biennial budget address. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)



Senator Nikiya Harris (D-Milwaukee) participates in Senate debate. Harris began her first legislative session in January 2013. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

EXECUTIVE VETOES, 1931 – 2011 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
2011	—	—	—	3	3	—	50	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 – 2013**

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 ²	16	17	—	—	—	—	—	48	51	—	—	—	—	—
1997 ²	17	16	—	—	—	—	—	47	52	—	—	—	—	—
1999	17	16	—	—	—	—	—	44	55	—	—	—	—	—
2001	18	15	—	—	—	—	—	43	56	—	—	—	—	—
2003	15	18	—	—	—	—	—	41	58	—	—	—	—	—
2005	14	19	—	—	—	—	—	39	60	—	—	—	—	—
2007	18	15	—	—	—	—	—	47	52	—	—	—	—	—
2009	18	15	—	—	—	—	—	52	46	—	—	—	1	—
2011 ³	14	19	—	—	—	—	—	38	60	—	—	—	1	—
2013	15	18	—	—	—	—	—	39	59	—	—	—	—	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.

³A series of recall elections during the session resulted in a switch in majority control of the senate, with 17 Democrats and 16 Republicans as of 7/16/12.

⁴Miscellaneous = one Independent and one People's (1887); one Independent and 2 Union Labor (1889).

⁵Miscellaneous = 3 Independent, 4 Independent Democrat, and 6 People's (1887); one Union Labor (1891); one Fusion (1897); one Independent (1929, 2009, 2011); one Independent Republican (1933).

Sources: Pre-1943 data is taken from the Secretary of State, *Officers of Wisconsin: U.S., State, Judicial, Congressional, Legislative and County Officers*, 1943 and earlier editions, and the *Wisconsin Blue Book*, various editions. Later data compiled from Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau sources.

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 2011-12:

Hardcover 6-volume set – \$86 (picked up); \$94 (shipped)

Softcover 6-volume set – \$51 (picked up); \$59 (shipped)

2011 Laws of Wisconsin: Hardcover 2-volume set – \$44.15 (picked up); \$48.85 (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.

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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, and town law forms.

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://legis.wisconsin.gov/rsb/order.htm>

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



The 2013 Legislature continued an initiative to modify administrative procedure and tighten legislative oversight of rule-making. Representative Daniel LeMahieu (R-Cascade), cochairperson of the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules, explained the initiative to the press. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE 2013 WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

All standing committees of the 2013 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.



The committee process offers legislators an opportunity to critically examine legislation in a less formal setting than the floor of a legislative chamber. Senator Julie Lassa questioned a witness before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Local Government. (Greg Anderson, Legislative Photographer)

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

Administrative Rules — VUKMIR, *chairperson*; LEIBHAM, TIFFANY; HARRIS*, VINEHOUT.

Agriculture, Small Business, and Tourism — MOULTON, *chairperson*; TIFFANY, *vice chairperson*; HARSDORF, SCHULTZ, PETROWSKI; VINEHOUT*, HANSEN, LASSA, TAYLOR.

Audit — COWLES, *chairperson*; DARLING, LAZICH; VINEHOUT*, LEHMAN.

Economic Development and Local Government — GUDEX, *chairperson*; PETROWSKI, *vice chairperson*; LEIBHAM; LASSA*, TAYLOR.

Education — OLSEN, *chairperson*; FARROW, *vice chairperson*; VUKMIR, DARLING, GUDEX; LEHMAN*, CULLEN, HARRIS, VINEHOUT.

Elections and Urban Affairs — LAZICH, *chairperson*; LEIBHAM, *vice chairperson*; LASEE; TAYLOR*, MILLER.

Energy, Consumer Protection, and Government Reform — COWLES, *chairperson*; KEDZIE, *vice chairperson*; HARSDORF; HANSEN*, MILLER.

Finance — DARLING, *chairperson*; OLSEN, *vice chairperson*; HARSDORF, GROTHMAN, LEIBHAM, LAZICH; SHILLING*, WIRCH.

Financial Institutions and Rural Issues — SCHULTZ, *chairperson*; LASEE, *vice chairperson*; PETROWSKI; LASSA*, JAUCH.

Government Operations, Public Works, and Telecommunications — FARROW, *chairperson*; GUXEK, *vice chairperson*; LASEE, KEDZIE; WIRCH*, HARRIS, SHILLING.

Health and Human Services — VUKMIR, *chairperson*; MOULTON, *vice chairperson*; LAZICH; ERPENBACH*, CARPENTER.

Insurance and Housing — LASEE, *chairperson*; OLSEN, *vice chairperson*; SCHULTZ; CULLEN*, ERPENBACH.

Judiciary and Labor — GROTHMAN, *chairperson*; VUKMIR, *vice chairperson*; FARROW; RISSER*, HARRIS.

Natural Resources — KEDZIE, *chairperson*; MOULTON, *vice chairperson*; TIFFANY; MILLER*, WIRCH.

Senate Organization — FITZGERALD, *chairperson*; ELLIS, GROTHMAN; LARSON*, HANSEN.

State and Federal Relations — ELLIS, *chairperson*; COWLES, *vice chairperson*; SCHULTZ; CARPENTER*, RISSER.

Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs — PETROWSKI, *chairperson*; LEIBHAM, *vice chairperson*; COWLES; CARPENTER*, HANSEN.

Universities and Technical Colleges — HARSDORF, *chairperson*; SCHULTZ, *vice chairperson*; GUXEK; SHILLING*, ERPENBACH.

Workforce Development, Forestry, Mining, and Revenue — TIFFANY, *chairperson*; DARLING, *vice chairperson*; GROTHMAN; JAUCH*, LEHMAN.

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEES

Administrative Rules — LEMAHIEU, *chairperson*; KAUFERT, *vice chairperson*; AUGUST; HEBL*, KAHL.

Aging and Long-Term Care — ENDSLEY, *chairperson*; CZAJA, *vice chairperson*; WILLIAMS, BERNIER, PETRYK, NERISON; BERNARD SCHABER*, SARGENT, KAHL.

Agriculture — NERISON, *chairperson*; TAUCHEN, *vice chairperson*; MARKLEIN, A. OTT, MURTHA, MURSAU, RIPP, TRANEL, BROOKS, SCHRAA; VRUWINK*, JORGENSEN, DANOU, SMITH, GOYKE, WRIGHT.

Assembly Organization — VOS, *chairperson*; SUDER, *vice chairperson*; STEINEKE, KRAMER, BALLWEG; BARCA*, PASCH, JORGENSEN.

Audit — KERKMAN, *chairperson*; MARKLEIN, *vice chairperson*; NYGREN; RICHARDS*, SARGENT.

Campaigns and Elections — BERNIER, *chairperson*; PRIDEMORE, *vice chairperson*; THIESFELDT, WEININGER, TRANEL, CRAIG; ZAMARRIPA*, KESSLER, BERCEAU.

Children and Families — KRUG, *chairperson*; LOUDENBECK, *vice chairperson*; ENDSLEY, SCHRAA, SPIROS, KERKMAN, NEYLON (eff. 4/16/13); TAYLOR*, BILLINGS, JOHNSON, KAHL (eff. 5/10/13).

Colleges and Universities — NASS, *chairperson*; MURPHY, *vice chairperson*; KNUDSON, WEATHERSTON, STROEBEL, BALLWEG, KRUG, SCHRAA; BEWLEY*, BILLINGS, HESSELBEIN, WACHS, BERCEAU.

Constitution and Ethics — KAPENGA, *cochairperson*, BILLINGS, *cochairperson*; JAGLER, J. OTT, TAUCHEN, MURPHY; WACHS*, SHANKLAND.

Consumer Protection — THIESFELDT, *chairperson*; TITTL, *vice chairperson*; A. OTT, NERISON, WEATHERSTON, JAGLER; POPE*, JOHNSON, WRIGHT.

Corrections — BIES, *chairperson*; SCHRAA, *vice chairperson*; BROOKS, KRUG, THIESFELDT, KLEEFISCH; DOYLE*, PASCH, ZAMARRIPA.

Criminal Justice — KLEEFISCH, *chairperson*; SPIROS, *vice chairperson*; JACQUE, J. OTT, SEVERSON, BIES; KESSLER*, GOYKE, JOHNSON.

- Education** — KESTELL, *chairperson*; JAGLER, *vice chairperson*; SEVERSON, NASS, PRIDEMORE, MARKLEIN, THIESFELDT; POPE*, CLARK, WRIGHT, HESSELBEIN.
- Energy and Utilities** — HONADEL, *chairperson*; LARSON, *vice chairperson*; JACQUE, WEININGER, SEVERSON, KLENKE, PETERSEN, NEYLON (eff. 4/16/13); ZEPNICK*, HULSEY, KAHL, SHANKLAND.
- Environment and Forestry** — MURSAU, *chairperson*; KRUG, *vice chairperson*; CZAJA, LOUDENBECK, STROEBEL; DANOU*, MILROY, CLARK.
- Family Law** — LARSON, *chairperson*; KESTELL, *vice chairperson*; WILLIAMS, TITTL, CRAIG, TRANEL; TAYLOR*, PASCH, HEBL.
- Finance** — NYGREN, *chairperson*; STRACHOTA, *vice chairperson*; LEMAHIEU, KOOYENGA, KNUDSON, KLENKE; MASON*, RICHARDS.
- Financial Institutions** — CRAIG, *chairperson*; KAPENGA, *vice chairperson*; STROEBEL, SANFELIPPO, KRAMER, KAUFERT, MARKLEIN, WEININGER, BORN; HINTZ*, ZEPNICK, YOUNG, RICHARDS, GENRICH, SARGENT.
- Government Operations and State Licensing** — AUGUST, *chairperson*; CRAIG, *vice chairperson*; KNODL, NASS, KOOYENGA, HUTTON, NEYLON (eff. 4/16/13); HULSEY*, SINICKI, RINGHAND, KESSLER (eff. 4/29/13).
- Health** — SEVERSON, *chairperson*; STONE, *vice chairperson*; SANFELIPPO, STRACHOTA, AUGUST, KAPENGA, PETERSEN; PASCH*, TAYLOR, KOLSTE, RIEMER.
- Housing and Real Estate** — MURTHA, *chairperson*; SANFELIPPO, *vice chairperson*; NASS, MURPHY, JAGLER, SWEARINGEN; YOUNG*, BEWLEY, GENRICH.
- Insurance** — PETERSEN, *chairperson*; WEININGER, *vice chairperson*; CZAJA, JAGLER, HONADEL, CRAIG, TRANEL, BORN, MURPHY, STROEBEL; DANOU*, BERCEAU, YOUNG, DOYLE, KAHL, OHNSTAD.
- International Trade and Commerce** — WEININGER, *chairperson*; KUGLITSCH, *vice chairperson*; WILLIAMS, LOUDENBECK, TAUCHEN, MURTHA; JORGENSEN*, RIEMER, SARGENT.
- Jobs, Economy and Mining** — WILLIAMS, *chairperson*; KNODL, *vice chairperson*; LARSON, SANFELIPPO, KAPENGA, KUGLITSCH, PETRYK, PETERSEN, STONE, JACQUE; CLARK*, BERNARD SCHABER, ZAMARRIPA, HINTZ, HULSEY, OHNSTAD.
- Judiciary** — J. OTT, *chairperson*; JACQUE, *vice chairperson*; AUGUST, CRAIG, KERKMAN, LARSON; HEBL*, WACHS, GOYKE.
- Labor** — KNODL, *chairperson*; AUGUST, *vice chairperson*; KAPENGA, NASS, KUGLITSCH, KLEEFISCH; SINICKI*, TAYLOR, OHNSTAD.
- Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage** — A. OTT, *chairperson*; KLEEFISCH, *vice chairperson*; BORN, BIES, WILLIAMS, MURSAU, NERISON, PETRYK, STEINEKE, SWEARINGEN; MILROY*, DANOU, CLARK, HEBL, SHANKLAND, HESSELBEIN.
- Public Safety and Homeland Security** — JACQUE, *chairperson*; BROOKS, *vice chairperson*; MURTHA, BERNIER, SWEARINGEN; KESSLER*, ZAMARRIPA, BEWLEY.
- Rules** — SUDER, *chairperson*; VOS, *vice chairperson*; KRAMER, STEINEKE, BALLWEG, MURTHA, WILLIAMS; BARCA*, PASCH, JORGENSEN, ZAMARRIPA, POPE.
- Rural Affairs** — TAUCHEN, *chairperson*; BERNIER, *vice chairperson*; KRUG, MURTHA, RIPP, SCHRAA, MURSAU, MARKLEIN; VRUWINK*, JORGENSEN, MILROY, BEWLEY, SMITH.
- Small Business Development** — STONE, *chairperson*; ENDSLEY, *vice chairperson*; HUTTON, KAUFERT, SWEARINGEN, LARSON, RIPP, CZAJA, SCHRAA, TITTL; JORGENSEN*, RINGHAND, SARGENT, SMITH, WRIGHT, KOLSTE.
- State Affairs** — KUGLITSCH, *chairperson*; SWEARINGEN, *vice chairperson*; AUGUST, KLEEFISCH, KNODL, RIPP, NEYLON (eff. 4/16/13); ZAMARRIPA*, BERNARD SCHABER, KAHL, SHANKLAND (eff. 4/29/13).
- State and Federal Relations** — TRANEL, *cochairperson*; YOUNG, *cochairperson*; MURSAU, PETERSEN, TITTL, LOUDENBECK; ZEPNICK*, BARNES.
- State and Local Finance** — STROEBEL, *chairperson*; BORN, *vice chairperson*; KESTELL, WEATHERSTON, NASS, TAUCHEN; ZEPNICK*, HINTZ, BERCEAU.

Tourism — KAUFERT, *chairperson*; BIES, *vice chairperson*; CZAJA, KLEEFISCH, ENDSLEY, BORN, A. OTT, SWEARINGEN, BALLWEG; BILLINGS*, HULSEY, DOYLE, HEBL, OHNSTAD.

Transportation — RIPP, *chairperson*; THIESFELDT, *vice chairperson*; SPIROS, A. OTT, SANFELIPPO, ENDSLEY, LARSON, KAUFERT, STONE; BERNARD SCHABER*, VRUWINK, DOYLE, DANOU, RIEMER, KOLSTE.

Urban and Local Affairs — BROOKS, *chairperson*; HUTTON, *vice chairperson*; JACQUE, J. OTT, HONADEL, MURPHY; HINTZ*, RINGHAND, BARNES.

Urban Education — PRIDEMORE, *chairperson*; THIESFELDT, *vice chairperson*; JAGLER, KESTELL, KNODL, WEININGER, HUTTON, SANFELIPPO; SINICKI*, POPE, PASCH, BARNES, JOHNSON.

Veterans — PETRYK, *chairperson*; WEATHERSTON, *vice chairperson*; SUDER, BIES, ENDSLEY, NERISON, PRIDEMORE, BROOKS, J. OTT, TITTL; RINGHAND*, MILROY, SINICKI, VRUWINK, HESSELBEIN, GOYKE.

Ways and Means — MARKLEIN, *chairperson*; KERKMAN, *vice chairperson*; RIPP, SPIROS, STONE, HONADEL, KESTELL; HULSEY*, RIEMER, BARNES.

Workforce Development — LOUDENBECK, *chairperson*; PETRYK, *vice chairperson*; HONADEL, KUGLITSCH, SEVERSON, PRIDEMORE, WEATHERSTON, BORN, BERNIER, KNODL; RINGHAND*, BILLINGS, KOLSTE, BARNES, SHANKLAND, WACHS.



The Wisconsin Assembly has seen unusually large freshmen classes in each of the last two sessions. A majority of the members of the 2013 Assembly are in their first or second terms. Representative Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton) is one of 25 freshmen in 2013. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

PERSONAL DATA ON WISCONSIN LEGISLATORS
2003 – 2013 Sessions

	2003		2005		2007		2009		2011		2013	
	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.*	Sen.	Rep.*	Sen.	Rep.
Party affiliation												
Democrat	15	41	14	39	18	47	18	52	14	38	15	39
Republican	18	58	19	60	15	52	15	46	19	60	18	60
Number with previous legislative service												
In senate	27	0	28	0	29	0	31	0	26	0	30	0
In assembly	22	84	23	81	23	82	23	86	23	69	25	74
Highest number of prior sessions in same house	20	16	21	17	22	18	23	19	24	14	25	13
Occupations												
Full-time legislator	13	39	11	39	12	38	11	39	12	32	12	35
Attorney	3	8	2	11	3	11	3	12	3	8	3	7
Farmer	3	9	3	9	3	5	3	5	2	6	2	4
Other	14	43	17	40	15	45	16	43	16	53	16	53
Education												
High school only	4	12	4	9	2	7	1	7	0	4	1	5
Beyond high school	29	87	29	90	31	92	32	92	33	95	32	94
Bachelor's or associate degree	25	67	26	70	28	69	29	69	29	73	28	72
Advanced degree	7	32	8	34	10	37	11	35	10	27	9	27
Number with experience on local governing body												
County board	4	19	4	18	4	17	4	15	6	16	7	18
Municipal board	8	35	10	28	12	25	12	30	9	29	11	30
Age												
Oldest	75	75	77	77	79	79	81	80	83	72	85	72
Youngest	33	27	34	28	36	28	38	29	30	25	32	25
Average	51	49	52	50	54	50	55	50	56	49	57	49
Veterans	4	13	4	13	2	16	2	16	2	13	2	10
Marital status												
Single	5	17	10	25	8	25	9	24	7	18	9	22
Married	28	80	23	70	25	69	24	71	26	79	24	77
Widowed	0	2	0	4	0	5	0	4	0	2	0	0
Number of women	8	27	8	26	8	22	7	22	8	23	9	24

*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 2013.



Representatives David Craig (R-Big Bend), Travis Tranel (R-Cuba City), and Chad Weininger (R-Green Bay) are all members of the large 2011 freshman class that have returned for a second term. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

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 LEMAHIEU, *cochairpersons*; SENATORS LEIBHAM, TIFFANY; HARRIS*, VINEHOUT; REPRESENTATIVES KAUFERT, AUGUST; HEBL*, KAHL.

Mailing Addresses: Senator Vukmir, Room 131 South, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Representative LeMahieu, Room 304 East, State Capitol, P.O. Box 8952, Madison 53708-8952.

Telephones: Senator Vukmir, 266-2512; Representative LeMahieu, 266-9175.

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

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

Agency Responsibility: The Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules must review proposed rules and may object to the promulgation of rules as part of the legislative oversight of the rule-making process. It also may suspend rules that have been promulgated; suspend or extend the effective period of emergency rules; and order an agency to put unwritten policies in rule form.

Following standing committee review, a proposed rule must be referred to the joint committee. The committee must meet to review proposed rules that receive standing committee objec-

tions, and may meet to review any rule received without objection. The joint committee 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 or may, on its own accord, object to a proposed rule or portion of a rule. If it objects or concurs with a standing committee's 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 a standing committee's objection, it may overrule the standing committee and allow the agency to adopt the rule. The joint committee may also request the agency to modify a proposed 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; a rule that is arbitrary or capricious or imposes undue hardship; or a rule affecting construction of a dwelling that would increase the cost of construction by more than \$1,000. 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 except for rules increasing the cost of construction of a dwelling by more than \$1,000; these are suspended until specific legislation authorizing them is enacted.

The joint committee receives notice of any action in a circuit court 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.



Speaker Robin Vos (R-Burlington) (left) listens to Democrat Andy Jorgensen of Fort Atkinson make his point. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

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. 2011 Wisconsin Act 21 modified the legislative review of proposed rules to require referral of all proposed rules to the joint committee.

State of Wisconsin BUILDING COMMISSION

Members: GOVERNOR WALKER, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE KAUFERT, *vice chairperson*; SENATORS KEDZIE, MOULTON; 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: SUMMER R. SHANNON-BRADLEY, *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.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.48.

Agency Responsibility: The State of Wisconsin Building Commission coordinates the state building program which includes the necessary lands, new buildings, all facilities and equipment required, and the remodeling, reconstruction, maintenance, and reequipping of existing buildings and facilities. The commission determines the projects to be incorporated into the long-range program and recommends a biennial building program to the legislature, including the amount to be appropriated in the biennial budget. The state building program for 2011-13 was \$966,977,300. The commission 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 KEDZIE, TAYLOR; REPRESENTATIVES JACQUE, GOYKE; J.B. VAN HOLLEN (attorney general); EDWARD F. WALL (secretary of corrections); KELLI S. THOMPSON (state public defender); JAMES T. BAYORGEON, DAVID G. DEININGER (reserve judges appointed by supreme court); BRADLEY GEHRING, MAURY STRAUB (public members appointed by governor).

Mailing Address: Senator Kedzie, Room 313 South, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Representative Jacque, Room 123 West, State Capitol, P.O. Box 8952, Madison 53708.

Telephones: Senator Kedzie, 266-2635; Representative Jacque, 266-9870.

E-mail: sen.kedzie@legis.wisconsin.gov; rep.jacque@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 VOS (assembly speaker), SENATORS FITZGERALD (majority leader), LARSON (minority leader); REPRESENTATIVES SUDER (majority leader), BARCA (minority leader); SENATOR DARLING, REPRESENTATIVE NYGREN (joint finance committee cochairpersons).



A break in the action gave Senator Tim Cullen (D-Janesville) the opportunity to chat with Senator Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee). (Greg Anderson, Legislative Photographer)

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 or, for certain University of Wisconsin bargaining units, the Board of Regents, 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 NYGREN, SENATORS OLSEN, HARSDORF, LEIBHAM, LAZICH, GROTHMAN; SHILLING*, WIRCH; REPRESENTATIVES STRACHOTA, KOOYENGA, KNUDSON, LEMAHIEU, KLENKE; MASON*, RICHARDS.

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

Telephones: Senator Darling, 266-5830; Representative Nygren, 266-2343.

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

Statutory References: Sections 13.09-13.11, 16.47, 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.



Arguably the most important committee in the legislature is the Joint Committee on Finance. The most prominent of its many duties is the detailed review of the governor's biennial budget bill. The cochairpersons this session are Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette) and Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills). (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

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

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

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

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

History: The use of a joint standing committee to consider appropriation bills dates back to 1857 when the legislature created the Joint Committee on Claims. In 1911 (Chapter 6), the Joint Committee on Finance replaced the claims committee and was given the responsibility to consider all bills related to revenue and taxation. Chapter 609, Laws of 1915, authorized the governor, secretary of state, and state treasurer to approve emergency appropriations when the legislature was not in session to permit departments with insufficient funds to carry out their normal duties. 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: SENATOR HARSDORF, REPRESENTATIVE PETERSEN, *cochairpersons*; SENATORS COWLES, GUDEX; CARPENTER, VINEHOUT; REPRESENTATIVES PETRYK, WEININGER; BARCA, GENRICH.

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 Joint Legislative Audit Committee oversees the legislature's constitutional mandate to provide for the auditing of state accounts. Representative Samantha Kerkman and Senator Robert Cowles are cochairpersons of this important committee. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Joint LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Members: SENATOR COWLES, REPRESENTATIVE KERKMAN, *cochairpersons*; SENATOR DARLING, REPRESENTATIVE NYGREN (joint finance committee cochairpersons); SENATORS LAZICH; VINEHOUT*, LEHMAN; REPRESENTATIVES MARKLEIN; RICHARDS*, SARGENT.

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 OLSEN (designated by senate president), REPRESENTATIVE BALLWEG (designated by assembly speaker), *cochairpersons*; SENATORS LEIBHAM (president pro tempore), FITZGERALD (majority leader), LARSON (minority leader), DARLING (cochairperson, Joint Committee on Finance), SHILLING (ranking minority member, Joint Committee on Finance), SCHULTZ, FARROW, PETROWSKI, RISSER, MILLER; REPRESENTATIVES VOS (assembly speaker), KRAMER (speaker pro tempore), SUDER (majority leader), BARCA (minority leader), NYGREN (cochairperson, Joint Committee on Finance), MASON (ranking minority member, Joint Committee on Finance), LOUDENBECK, STONE, 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: SCOTT GROSZ, *codirector*, scott.grosz@legis.wisconsin.gov; JESSICA KARLS-RUPLINGER, *codirector*, jessica.karls@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; Comparative Retirement Study; 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 2011-13: \$8,035,800.

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



Majority Leader Scott Suder (left) discusses the day’s agenda with Representatives JoCasta Zamaripa and Mandela Barnes, both Milwaukee Democrats. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

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 VINEHOUT, *vice chairperson*; SENATOR SCHULTZ; REPRESENTATIVES BEWLEY, MILROY, STEINEKE, STROEBEL; WILLIAM MORROW (Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin), DEE ANN ALLEN (Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians), MARVIN DEFOE (Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas), JORDAN S. MARTINSON (St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin), CHRIS MCGESHICK (Sokaogon Chippewa Community), JON GREENDEER (Ho-Chunk Nation), GARY BESAW (Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin), MELINDA DANFORTH (Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin), HAROLD G. FRANK (Forest County Potawatomi Community).

The Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations is appointed by the Joint Legislative Council each biennium to study issues related to American Indians and the Indian tribes and bands in this state and develop specific recommendations and legislative proposals relating to such issues. Legislative membership includes not fewer than 6 nor more than 12 members with at least one member of the majority and the minority party from each house. The council appoints no fewer than 6 and no more than 11 members from names submitted by federally recognized Wisconsin Indian tribes or bands or the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council. The council may not appoint more than one member recommended by any one tribe or band or the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council. 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: LOA PORTER (Department of Children and Families), GAIL NAHWAQUAW (Department of Health Services), TOM BELLAVIA (Department of Justice), QUINN WILLIAMS (Department of Natural Resources), DAVID O'CONNOR (Department of Public Instruction), THOMAS D. OURADA (Department of Revenue), KELLY JACKSON (Department of Transportation), TRISTAN COOK (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 and reviews attorney general's opinions and 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 2013

Special Committee on Improving Educational Opportunities in High School

Members: SENATOR OLSEN, *chairperson*; SENATOR FARROW, *vice chairperson*; SENATORS CULLEN, GROTHMAN; REPRESENTATIVE POPE; JONI BURGIN, BILL FITZPATRICK, JOE GARZA, ROBERT HEIN, PATRICIA HOBEN, WILLIAM HUGHES, MARK KAISER, SUZANNE KELLEY, JIM LEEF, JEFF MONDAY, HARRY MUIR, PATRICIA NEUDECKER, SHEILA RUHLAND, STEPHEN MARK TYLER.

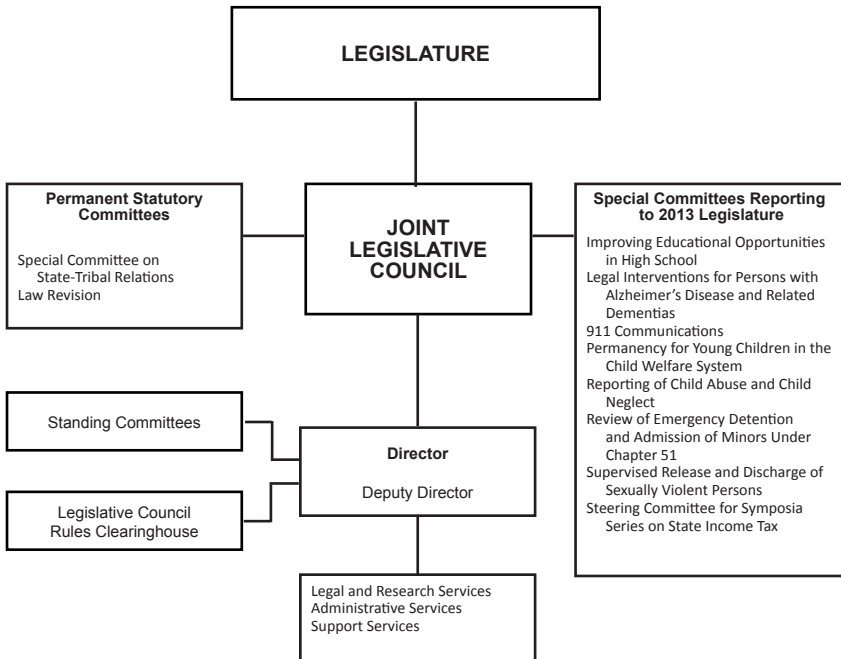
The special committee is directed to develop legislation to create and enhance opportunities for both lower and higher achieving students in high school. The committee shall: evaluate current options available to high school students for both career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment, including the Youth Options Program; examine both career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment options available to high school students in other states; and determine how to promote coordination between high schools, technical colleges, universities, and employers to ensure that high school students have the skills necessary to meet the workforce needs of employers in this state.

Special Committee on Legal Interventions for Persons with Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias

Members: REPRESENTATIVE KNODL, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD SCHABER, *vice chairperson*; SENATORS KEDZIE, WIRCH; SUZANNE BOTTUM-JONES, KATHI CAULEY, WILLIAM HANRAHAN, TOM HLAVACEK, GINA KOEPL, ROBERT LIGHTFOOT II, ROB MUELLER, WANDA PLACHECKI, BRIAN PURTELL, TOM REED, KENNETH ROBBINS, CHRYSTAL ROSSO.

The special committee is directed to review and develop legislation to clarify the statutes regarding guardianship, protective placement, involuntary commitment, and involuntary treat-

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL





Legislators serve a unique intermediary role – being an integral part of the government in Madison, but at the same time citizens of their districts. Senator Neal Kedzie greeted a group of visitors from his district at his capitol office. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

ment as they apply to vulnerable adults with a dementia diagnosis who may or may not have a co-occurring psychiatric diagnosis.

Special Committee on 911 Communications

Members: REPRESENTATIVE BALLWEG, *chairperson*; SENATOR JAUCH, *vice chairperson*; SENATOR MOULTON; REPRESENTATIVE VRUWINK; JIM BACKUS, THOMAS BYCHINSKI, TRACEY FROILAND, PAUL GEISZLER, JAMES JERMAIN, KEITH KESLER, BRIAN LANDERS, PAM MCINNIS, TODD NEHLS, JEFF RANOUS, VICKI SANFELIPO, RICHARD TUMA, BRADLEY WELP.

The special committee is directed to review 911 public safety communications in Wisconsin and develop legislation as needed to strengthen and improve the system. The special committee shall study: a) creation of a statewide entity to provide coordination and long-term planning for the system; b) existing funding sources and projected costs of the system; c) the training curriculum and requirements for 911 dispatch personnel; d) establishment of a minimum 911 service standard; e) methods to upgrade multiline telephone system technology to enable responders to locate calls originating from large or multilocation facilities; and f) best practices around the county for potential implementation in Wisconsin.

Special Committee on Permanency for Young Children in the Child Welfare System

Members: REPRESENTATIVE KERKMAN, *chairperson*; SENATOR LAZICH, *vice chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE BILLINGS; COLLEEN ELLINGSON, CHRIS FOLEY, TAMARA GRIGSBY, MARK GUMZ, AMY HERBST, MOLLY JASMER, ESIE LEOSO-CORBINE, LAURA MAKI, JESSICA MURPHY, ROBIN NEESON, RANDI OTHROW, RON ROGERS, MICHELLE SNEAD, MARY SOWINSKI.

The special committee is directed to study current law relating to permanency for children under the age of eight who are placed or at risk of being placed outside of their home, such as in foster care, to determine whether modifications could be made to reduce the length of time it takes to achieve permanency and to improve outcomes for these children. The special committee shall also determine how current law may be modified to encourage the placement of younger children with a relative as an option for permanency or support.

Special Committee on Reporting of Child Abuse and Child Neglect

Members: SENATOR DARLING, *chairperson*; SENATOR SHILLING, *vice chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVES BERCEAU, THIESFELDT; SUSAN DREYFUS, KRISTEN INIGUEZ, KATHARINE KUCHARSKI, BILL ORTH, HENRY PLUM, MICHAEL SCHMIDTKNECHT, LYNN SHEETS, MARY TRIGGIANO.

The special committee is directed to conduct a recodification of Section 48.981, Wisconsin Statutes, Wisconsin's child abuse and child neglect reporting requirements, to reorganize the statute in a logical manner, renumber and retitle certain subsections, consolidate related provisions, modernize language, resolve ambiguities in language, and make other necessary organizational changes. The special committee shall also: recommend changes to current law regarding who is required to report suspected abuse or neglect of children and the circumstances under which such a report is mandated; and study the reporting of suspected abuse of students at institutions of higher education.

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

Members: SENATOR LAZICH, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE PASCH, *vice chairperson*; SENATOR HANSEN; REPRESENTATIVE BALLWEG; MICHAEL J. BACHHUBER, JON S. BERLIN, 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, Wisconsin Statutes, across this state, and the availability and cost of emergency detention facilities; b) the inconsistent statutory approaches to emergency detention between Milwaukee County and other counties in the state; and c) the inconsistent application of procedures relating to admission of minors under Section 51.13, Wisconsin Statutes, as modified by 2005 Wisconsin Act 444.



Senator Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) (center), as Senate Majority Leader, sets the agenda for the upper house of the legislature. Here he confers with members of the majority caucus Leah Vukmir of Wauwatosa and Joe Leibham of Sheboygan. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Special Committee on Supervised Release and Discharge of Sexually Violent Persons

Members: REPRESENTATIVE STRACHOTA, *chairperson*; SENATOR DARLING, *vice chairperson*; SENATORS CULLEN, LAZICH; MARK BENSEN, MICHAEL BOHREN, RON CRAMER, REBECCA DALLAT, SHARI HANNEMAN, IAN HENDERSON, FRANK LISKA, LOUIS MOLEPSKE, JR., RICK OLIVA, ANTHONY RIOS.

The special committee is directed to review the current process for granting supervised release and discharging persons who have been committed as sexually violent persons under Chapter 980, Wisconsin Statutes. The special committee shall: determine what level of judicial input regarding the determination whether to grant a sexually violent person supervised release or discharge from a civil commitment under Chapter 980 is appropriate; review the criteria for determining whether a person is fit for supervised release and determine whether this criteria should be modified; and review the criteria for determining whether a person should be discharged from his or her civil commitment to determine whether the criteria are appropriate.

Steering Committee for Symposia Series on State Income Tax

Members: REPRESENTATIVE VOS, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE KOOYENGA, *vice chairperson*; SENATORS GROTHMAN, TAYLOR, VINEHOUT; REPRESENTATIVES RICHARDS, TAYLOR; BOB ZIEGELBAUER.

The steering committee is directed to conduct information symposia and develop recommendations regarding Wisconsin's income tax code. The committee shall: review Wisconsin's current income tax code, the income tax codes of other states, and previously proposed methods for state tax code reform; consider the social and economic effects of tax code reforms as applied to individual and corporate taxpayers as well as the fiscal effects on state revenues; and develop recommendations, in the form of a committee report, for income tax reform that would improve economic growth for residents and businesses in the State of Wisconsin.

Joint Committee on LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION

Members: SENATOR ELLIS (senate president), REPRESENTATIVE VOS (assembly speaker), *cochairpersons*; SENATORS FITZGERALD (majority leader), LARSON (minority leader), GROTHMAN (assistant majority leader), HANSEN (assistant minority leader); REPRESENTATIVES SUDER (majority leader), BARCA (minority leader), STEINEKE (assistant majority leader), PASCH (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.

Joint Survey Committee on RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

Members: SENATOR SCHULTZ, REPRESENTATIVE STROEBEL, *cochairpersons*; SENATORS FARROW; HANSEN; REPRESENTATIVES SEVERSON; BERCEAU; CHARLOTTE GIBSON (assistant attorney general appointed by attorney general), *secretary*; ROBERT J. CONLIN (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.

Joint Legislative STATE SUPPORTED PROGRAMS STUDY AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members: SENATOR KEDZIE, 4 vacancies; REPRESENTATIVE NEYLON, 5 vacancies.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.47.



Minority Leader Chris Larson, the youngest member of the Wisconsin Senate, enjoyed inauguration day with his family. (Greg Anderson, Legislative Photographer)

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 LASEE, REPRESENTATIVE AUGUST, *cochairpersons*; SENATORS TIFFANY, LEHMAN*; REPRESENTATIVES HONADEL, BERNARD SCHABER*; RICHARD G. CHANDLER (secretary of revenue); STEVEN MEANS (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.



Robin Vos, Speaker of the Assembly, is the first speaker from Racine County since 1860. (Jay Savo, Legislative Photographer)

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS COMMISSION

Members: GOVERNOR WALKER, *chairperson*; SENATORS PETROWSKI, LEIBHAM, COWLES; CULLEN, CARPENTER; REPRESENTATIVES SPIROS, RIPP, ENDSLEY; BEWLEY, VRUWINK; THOMAS CARLSEN, BARBARA FLEISNER LAMUE, MICHAEL RYAN (citizen members appointed by governor).
Nonvoting member: MARK GOTTLIEB (secretary of transportation).

Commission Secretary: SHARON BREMSER, sharon.bremser@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*; SENATOR RISSER; REPRESENTATIVE GOYKE, JUSTICE DAVID PROSSER, JR.; TERRY ANDERSON (director, Legislative Council Staff); JOHN MACY, JUSTICE PATIENCE ROGGENSACK (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

State Auditor: JOE CHRISMAN, joe.chrisman@

Special Assistant to the State Auditor: JOSH SMITH, joshua.smith@

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@

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.

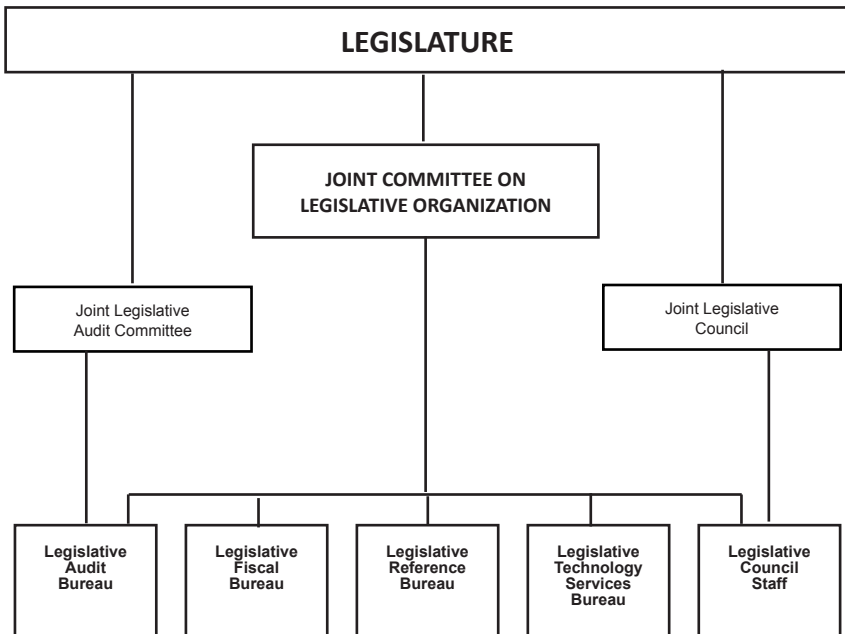
Number of Employees: 86.80.

Total Budget 2011-13: \$16,174,200.

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 trans-

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AGENCIES



actions 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 provides an annual audit opinion on the state's comprehensive financial statements by the Department of Administration and prepares audits and reports on the financial transactions and records of state agencies at the state auditor's discretion or at the direction of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. The bureau maintains a toll-free number (1-877-FRAUD-17) to receive reports of fraud, waste, and mismanagement in state government.

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

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

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.



Representative Peter W. Barca (D-Kenosha) is the Assembly Minority Leader. It is the difficult task for the minority leader to articulate and adroitly advance the minority's position within the rules despite a numerical disadvantage. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Statutory Advisory Council

Municipal Best Practices Reviews Advisory Council: STEVE O'MALLEY, ADAM PAYNE (representing the Wisconsin Counties Association); MARK ROHLOFF (representing the League of Wisconsin Municipalities); RICHARD NAWROCKI (representing the Wisconsin Towns Association). (All are appointed by the State Auditor.)

The 4-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 State Auditor is required to conduct periodic reviews of procedures and practices used by local governments in the delivery of governmental services; identify variations in costs and effectiveness of such services between counties and municipalities; and recommend practices to save money or provide more effective service delivery. Council members are chosen from candidates submitted by the organizations represented. The council was created by 1999 Wisconsin Act 9 in Section 13.94 (8), Wisconsin Statutes, and succeeds the council created by 1995 Wisconsin Act 27.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF

See Joint Legislative Council pp. 273-275



Floor debate gives members an opportunity to state their position on pending legislation, and to improve it by offering amendments. Here Senator Tim Cullen addresses his colleagues. (Greg Anderson, Legislative Photographer)

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 2011-13: \$7,912,400.

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, suggests alternatives to the committee and the legislature, and prepares a report detailing earmarks in the budget bill. 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, cathlene.hanaman@legis.wisconsin.gov

Legal Services: PETER R. GRANT, JEFFREY T. KUESEL, MARC E. SHOVERS, REBECCA C. TRADEWELL, *managing attorneys.*

Legislative Research and Library: JULIE POHLMAN, *manager*, 266-0344, julie.pohlman@legis.wisconsin.gov

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

Location: 1 East Main Street, Suite 200.

Telephones: Legal: 266-3561; Research: 266-0341; Library: 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 2011-13: \$12,452,200.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.92.

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 section provides a broad range of information to aid legislators and other government officials. It also 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 Commit-

tee on Legislative Organization. In 2008, the legislature transferred statutory revision duties to the bureau.



The Wisconsin Blue Book, produced by the Legislative Reference Bureau, is a useful guide to Wisconsin government for citizens of all ages. (Greg Anderson, Legislative Photographer)

LEGISLATIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES BUREAU

Director: JEFF YLVISAKER.

Administration Manager: PAM BENISCH.

Enterprise Operations Manager: MATT HARNED.

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 2011-13: \$8,311,600.

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.



Representative Bill Kramer (R-Waukesha), serving his second term as Speaker Pro Tempore, normally presides over the Assembly. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION ENACTED BY THE 2011 LEGISLATURE

This section highlights significant legislation enacted by the 2011 Wisconsin Legislature in the biennial session that began January 3, 2011, and concluded January 7, 2013. The legislation is categorized by subject matter and in cases when an act affects more than one area of state law, such as 2011 Wisconsin Act 32 (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				
	2003-04	2005-06	2007-08	2009-10	2011-12
Total Drafting Requests	9,560	10,134	7,919	9,447	7,312
Bills Introduced	1,568	1,971	1,581	1,723	1,400
Assembly Bills	998	1,232	988	997	786
Senate Bills	570	739	593	726	614
Acts	327	491	242	406	286
Percentage of Bills Enacted	20.9%	24.9%	15.3%	23.6%	20.4%
Bills Totally Vetoed	54	47	1	5	0
Bills Partially Vetoed	10	2	4	6	3

SIGNIFICANT 2011-2012 LEGISLATION

Administrative Law

Act 21 (*January 2011 Special Session AB-8*) makes the following changes relating to promulgating administrative rules:

- Prohibits a state agency from implementing a standard, requirement, or threshold unless a statute or rule explicitly requires or permits the standard, requirement, or threshold.
- Provides that a legislative intent statement or a description of a state agency's general powers or duties does not confer rule-making authority beyond what the legislature explicitly confers and that a statutory standard, requirement, or threshold does not confer the authority to promulgate by rule a more restrictive standard, requirement, or threshold.
- Requires gubernatorial approval of the statement of the scope and the final draft of a proposed rule, including an emergency rule, and permits the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules to review any proposed rule.
- Extends to all state agencies the requirement that an economic impact analysis be prepared for a proposed rule, expands the information that must be included in an economic impact analysis, and requires Department of Administration (DOA) approval of a proposed rule if the proposed rule would incur \$20 million or more in implementation and compliance costs.
- Provides that the venue for a declaratory judgment action on the validity of a rule is in the county where the party asserting the invalidity of the rule resides or has its principal place of business or, if that party does not reside in Wisconsin, in the county where the dispute arose. Under former law, venue for such an action was in Dane County.

Beverages

Act 32 (*AB-40*) authorizes the Department of Revenue (DOR) instead of municipalities to issue beer wholesaler's permits. Under the act, a brewer may not hold a wholesaler's permit but may, under its brewer's permit, sell, ship, transport, and deliver its own beer to wholesalers; transport beer between the brewery premises and the brewer's warehouse; and, if the brewer annually produces 300,000 or fewer barrels of beer, sell, ship, and deliver its own beer to retailers. Under the act, a brewer may not also hold a retail license, but the brewer's permit authorizes the brewer to make retail sales at the brewery premises and at one off-site retail outlet the brewer establishes.

At these two retail locations, the brewer may make retail sales of its own beer and of other Wisconsin-made beer and, if the brewer held a retail liquor license on June 1, 2011, intoxicating liquor. The act also eliminates a provision that restricted some brewers from operating restaurants and instead authorizes a brewer to operate two restaurants, one on the brewery premises and one at an off-site retail outlet.

Business and Consumer Law

Act 7 (*January 2011 Special Session SB-6*) creates the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), an authority charged with developing and implementing economic programs to provide business support and expertise and financial assistance to companies that invest and create jobs in Wisconsin and to support new business start-ups and business expansion and growth in Wisconsin.

Act 32 (*AB-40*) makes the following changes to the laws relating to economic development:

- Eliminates the Department of Commerce.
- Transfers several programs related to economic development from the former Department of Commerce to WEDC, including the State Main Street Program; the Brownfields Grant Program; and numerous programs for the administration of tax credits.
- Eliminates a number of programs related to economic development that were administered by the Department of Commerce, including grants to the Women's Business Initiative Corporation; community development block grants; the Capital Access Program; renewable energy grants and loans; loans to manufacturing businesses; gaming economic diversification grants and loans; grants to the Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation; the Economic Adjustment Program; the Business Employees' Skills Training Grant Program; entrepreneurial assistance grants; the Wisconsin Trade Project Program; the Rural Economic Development Program; manufacturing extension center grants; grants to the Wisconsin Angel Network; the Technology Commercialization Grant and Loan Program; manufacturing investment tax credits; administration of the Forward Innovation Fund and the Wisconsin Development Fund; and the Economic Liaison Program with American Indians.

Children

Act 270 (*SB-173*) requires a juvenile court to make its confidential electronic records available to criminal courts, municipal courts, and other juvenile courts; prosecutors of cases in those courts; and attorneys and guardians ad litem (GALs) for parents and children who are parties to municipal or juvenile court proceedings and to make such records relating to a delinquency proceeding available to law enforcement agencies. The act permits such records made available to be used by a court only for conducting or preparing for court proceedings; by a prosecutor, attorney, or GAL only for performing official duties relating to a court proceeding; and by a law enforcement agency only for investigating alleged criminal or delinquent activity.

Correctional System

Act 38 (*SB-57*) eliminates programs that allowed prisoners to earn, for days spent in confinement without incident, "positive adjustment time" that would have reduced the number of days of incarceration. The act also eliminates the court's ability to shorten a person's sentence based on a court determination that the person would benefit from the reduced sentence, the opportunity for certain prisoners to be released from incarceration early if they are within 12 months of release, and early discharge from community supervision.

Act 38 eliminates the Earned Release Review Commission, restores the Parole Commission, and authorizes the Parole Commission, at its discretion, to release to community supervision certain prisoners who have served a portion of their sentences confined in prison. Under the act, the sentencing court determines whether certain prisoners who have served either 75 percent or 85 percent of their confinement sentences may be released to community supervision. The act allows a sentencing court to grant certain offenders early release from probation.

Act 94 (*AB-69*) creates a presumption of immunity from civil liability for a person who used deadly force against another if all of the following apply:

- The person against whom the force was used was attempting to enter, or had unlawfully and forcefully entered, the dwelling, motor vehicle, or place of business of the person who used the force.
- The person who used the force was in that dwelling, motor vehicle, or place of business.
- The person who used the force knew or reasonably believed that an unlawful and forcible entry was occurring or had occurred.

Act 94 does not provide a presumption of immunity to a person who used the deadly force if the person was engaged in a criminal activity or was using his or her dwelling, motor vehicle, or place of business to further a criminal activity or if the person against whom the force was used had identified himself or herself as a public safety worker, or should have been known to be a public safety worker, and was performing his or her official duties. The act entitles a person who is civilly immune to recover his or her attorney fees, court costs, and other expenses related to defending against the suit.



The Majority Leader is responsible for the efficient conduct of Assembly floor sessions in advancement of the majority party's agenda. This session, that role again falls to Scott Suder of Abotsford. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Education

Primary and Secondary Education

Act 32 (AB-40) makes the following changes to the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP), under which certain low-income pupils who reside in the city of Milwaukee may attend a private school at state expense:

- Eliminates the cap on the number of pupils that may participate in the MPCP.
- Requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to provide information obtained through the application process to DOR and requires DOR to determine whether a pupil is eligible to participate in the MPCP on the basis of family income.
- Increases the family income limit from 175 percent of the federal poverty level

- to 300 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Permits family income for a married family to be reduced by \$7,000 before determining income eligibility.
- Permits a pupil to remain eligible to participate in the MPCP if the pupil's family income increases.
- Permits any private school, not just private schools located in the city of Milwaukee, to participate.
- Permits participating private schools to charge tuition and fees, in addition to the state choice payment, to a participating pupil in grades 9 to 12 if the pupil's family income exceeds 220 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Requires DPI to notify each participating private school of any proposed changes to the MPCP prior to the beginning of the school year in which the changes are to take place.
- Allows a private school seeking to participate in the MPCP to obtain preaccreditation from any statutorily recognized accrediting agency.

In addition, Act 32 creates a Parental Choice Program for Eligible School Districts having all of the same characteristics as the MPCP except for the following:

- Any school district located in a city of the second class and meeting certain criteria related to income and state aid, as determined by DPI, may participate in the program and may continue to participate in future years. The Racine Unified School District is the only eligible school district DPI identified for the 2011-12 school year.
- A pupil may participate if the pupil was enrolled in the eligible district in the previous school year; was not enrolled in school in the previous school year; was enrolled in the program in the previous school year; or is enrolling in kindergarten, first grade, or ninth grade in a school participating in the program in the current school year.
- Pupil participation is limited to 250 pupils in the first school year of the program



Representative Dave Murphy (at left, R-Greenville), serving his first term, chats with the Assembly's most senior member, Al Ott. Ott (R-Forest Junction) first served in the 1987 session. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

and 500 pupils in the second school year of the program, but is not limited in any subsequent school year.

Act 32 also eliminates the limit of 5,250 pupils who may attend a virtual charter school under the Open Enrollment Program.

Act 32 directs DPI to establish a student information system to collect and maintain information about public school pupils and ensure that within five years every school district is using the system.

Act 32 requires DPI to replace the statewide knowledge and concepts examinations with pupil assessments developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium or by an entity DPI selects.

Act 125 (SB-353) prohibits a public school employee and certain other individuals who provide services for a public school from using seclusion or physical restraint on a pupil except under certain conditions. Seclusion may be used only if the pupil's behavior presents a clear, present, and imminent risk to physical safety; it is the least restrictive intervention available; it lasts only as long as is necessary; an employee maintains constant supervision of the pupil; the seclusion room or area is free from objects that may injure the pupil; the pupil has access to a bathroom, water, necessary medications, and meals; and no door connecting the room or area to other rooms or areas is capable of being locked. Physical restraint may be used only if the pupil's behavior presents a clear, present, and imminent risk to physical safety; it is the least restrictive intervention available; the degree of force used and the duration of the restraint are reasonable and no more than necessary; there are no medical contraindications to its use; certain specified maneuvers and techniques are not employed; it does not constitute corporal punishment; and neither mechanical nor chemical restraints are used.

Act 166 (SB-461) makes the following changes:

- Creates a segregated fund, the Read to Lead Development Fund, to support literacy and early childhood development programs, and the Read to Lead Development Council.
- Requires each school board and each charter school annually to assess pupils enrolled in kindergarten for reading readiness. The school board or charter school must provide a pupil at risk of reading difficulty with interventions or remedial reading services.
- Prohibits DPI from issuing an initial license to teach in grades kindergarten to 5, in special education, or as a reading specialist unless the applicant passes an examination identical to the Foundations of Reading test administered in 2012 as part of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure.
- Requires DPI to work in consultation with the governor's office and others to determine how the performance of persons who have recently completed teacher education and preparatory programs and who have been recommended for licensure will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the programs. The act requires DPI to share certain information obtained about these persons from the programs with the public and requires the programs to share this information with prospective applicants.
- Requires DPI to develop an educator effectiveness evaluation system and an equivalency process. The act requires school districts to use either the system or the process to evaluate teacher and principal performance beginning in the 2014-15 school year and, using information obtained from the evaluation, place teachers and principals in one of multiple performance categories.

Act 172 (AB-259) requires DPI to develop guidelines to educate athletic coaches and pupil athletes and their parents about the nature and risk of concussion and head injury in youth athletic activities. The bill requires that a person who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a youth athletic activity be removed from the activity. A person who has been removed may not participate in a youth athletic activity until a health care provider gives him or her written clearance to do so.

Act 215 (SB-174) closes the parental choice program for eligible school districts (currently open only to the Racine Unified School District) to additional school districts.

Elections

Act 23 (AB-7) provides, with certain exceptions, that an individual must present proof of identification in order to vote in an election. The act permits a number of specified documents to be used as proof, including a Wisconsin driver's license or identification card. With limited exceptions, a document must contain a photograph of the individual. With certain exceptions, an individual voting absentee must provide a copy of the proof with his or her application. The act permits an elector who does not have proof of identification to vote provisionally. A provisional ballot is valid only if the elector who casts the ballot presents the required proof to the municipality in which he or she resides by 4 p.m. on the Friday after an election. The act also increases to 28 days the durational residency requirement for electors to vote in an election, requires most electors who vote at polling places to provide their signatures when voting, eliminates the option of using a single action to vote a straight party ticket, shortens the period for late registration and absentee voting in person before election day, and eliminates corroboration of an elector's residence by another elector of the same municipality as acceptable proof of residence for registration.

Act 43 (SB-148) redistricts this state's legislative districts in accordance with the 2010 U.S. census of population.

Act 44 (SB-149) redistricts this state's congressional districts in accordance with the 2010 U.S. census of population.

Act 75 (SB-116) changes the date of the September primary election to the second Tuesday in August and renames it the partisan primary. The act also changes the dates for related election occurrences in accordance with that date change.

Employment

Act 10 (January 2011 Special Session AB-11) limits the scope of collective bargaining for state and municipal employees, except police officers and fire fighters, to bargaining over a base wage increase that does not exceed the increase in the consumer price index. The act also prohibits municipal governments from collectively bargaining with employees in a manner inconsistent with the Municipal Employment Relations Act (MERA) and eliminates collective bargaining for University of Wisconsin (UW) System employees, employees of the UW Hospitals and Clinics Authority, and certain home care and child care providers. The act also requires each public sector collective bargaining unit, except units containing police officers or fire fighters, to annually certify its collective bargaining representative in order to bargain collectively, limits to one year the duration of collective bargaining agreements covering all state or municipal employees except police officers or fire fighters, and prohibits local governments and the state from deducting labor organization dues from the earnings of an employee who is not a police officer or fire fighter.

Act 10 makes the following changes to the laws relating to public employment and fringe benefits for public employees:

- Requires public employees under the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) to pay one-half of all actuarially required contributions to fund their retirement benefits and prohibits the employer, with exceptions, from paying this amount in behalf of the employees. Protective occupation participants (who are generally law enforcement and fire fighting personnel) must pay the same percentage of earnings as public employees who are not protective occupation participants, but the employer must pay these amounts in behalf of the employee if required by a collective bargaining agreement. Former law allowed the employer to pay these contributions for all employees.
- Requires the director of Office of State Employment Relations (OSER) to set the amount that the employer must pay for state employee health insurance costs. The act specifies that the employer may not pay more than 88 percent of the average premium costs of health insurance plans offered in the tier with the lowest employee premium costs by the Group Insurance Board (GIB).
- Decreases the formula multiplier that is used to calculate an annuity for elected and executive participating employees in the WRS from 2 percent to 1.6 percent, resulting in a 20 percent reduction in the value of a WRS annuity calculated according to the formula methodology. This decrease applies only to



Senator Dave Hansen, Assistant Minority Leader, talks with colleagues Fred Risser (left) and Mark Miller. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

future years of service earned by the employees.

- Provides that, under the local government health insurance program offered to local government employers by the GIB, the employer may not pay more than 88 percent of the average premium costs of health insurance plans offered in the tier with the lowest employee premium costs.
- With exceptions, requires employees in retirement systems of counties having a population of 500,000 or more (currently, only Milwaukee County) to pay half of all actuarially required contributions for funding benefits under the retirement system and prohibits the employer from paying these contributions in behalf of the employees.
- With exceptions, requires employees in retirement systems of first class cities (currently, only the city of Milwaukee) to pay all employee-required contributions for funding benefits under the retirement system and prohibits the employer from paying these contributions in behalf of the employees.
- Creates 37 unclassified division administrator positions in executive branch state agencies and permits the appointing authority in these agencies to designate any managerial position as an administrator position.
- Permits an appointing authority of a state agency to reassign a career executive employee to a career executive position in any state agency if the appointing authority in the agency to which the employee is to be reassigned approves of the reassignment.
- Permits an appointing authority of a state agency, during a state of emergency declared by the governor, to discharge any employee who fails to report to work as scheduled for any three days or any employee who participates in a strike or certain other work actions.



Assistant Majority Leader Glenn Grothman (R-West Bend) exchanges views with Senator Kathleen Vinehout (D-Alma). (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

- Requires the GIB to design health care coverage plans for 2012 for state employees that, after inflation adjustments, reduces premium costs by at least 5 percent from the costs of such plans during 2011.

Act 32 (AB-40) modifies Act 10 to allow municipal transit employees to bargain over wages, hours, and conditions of employment if the state would lose federal funding if the employees were limited to bargaining over the base wage increase under Act 10. Under the act, the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission must determine which employees qualify. The act prohibits police officers and fire fighters hired on or after July 1, 2011, from bargaining over the requirement that they pay the employee share of retirement contributions and prohibits municipal police and fire fighters hired on or after July 1, 2011, from bargaining over the design and selection of their health care coverage plans.

Health and Social Services

Act 217 (SB-306) makes various changes to abortion laws, including:

- Requiring a physician who is to perform or induce an abortion to determine whether the woman's consent is voluntary by speaking to the woman in person, out of the presence of anyone other than a person working for or with the physician. If the physician suspects that the woman is in danger of physical harm by anyone coercing her to consent to an abortion, the physician must inform the woman of domestic abuse services and provide her private access to a telephone.
- Prohibiting giving an abortion-inducing drug to a woman unless the physician who prescribed the abortion-inducing drug performs a physical exam on the woman and is physically present in the room at the time the abortion-inducing drug is given to the woman.

Act 32 (AB-40) makes changes related to Medical Assistance (MA), including allowing the Department of Health Services (DHS), until January 1, 2015, to establish policies to make certain changes to the laws related to MA including policies that conflict with or supersede certain statutes. DHS must seek any necessary federal approval by MA state plan amendment or waiver

of federal Medicaid law and may not implement the policy if the federal government does not approve. Before implementing a policy that conflicts with a statute and before seeking federal approval, DHS must submit the proposed policy along with estimates of cost savings to the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) for review. The act also requires DHS to request a waiver of federal Medicaid law so that DHS does not have to maintain effort in the MA program. If the federal government does not approve the waiver of maintenance of effort, DHS must reduce income levels for the purposes of determining eligibility for MA programs to 133 percent of the federal poverty line to the extent permitted under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The act supersedes the related provisions in Act 10.

Justice

Act 35 (*SB-93*) requires DOJ to issue a license to carry a concealed and dangerous weapon, including a handgun, to an applicant who is a Wisconsin resident, who is at least 21 years of age, who submits proof of training, and who is not subject to prohibitions against possessing a firearm. The act also permits persons to prohibit others from carrying a firearm in residences, including in common areas of residential buildings; on nonresidential grounds and in nonresidential buildings; at certain special events; in local government buildings; and in buildings on the grounds of a university or college. A person who violates the prohibitions is guilty of trespassing and subject to a civil forfeiture.

Local Law

Act 32 (*AB-40*) does the following:

- Prohibits a county from using its own workforce to perform a highway improvement project on a highway under the jurisdiction of another county or a municipality that is located in a different county.
- Prohibits a city or village with a population of 5,000 or more from having a county workforce perform a highway improvement project unless the project is under the local roads improvement program.

Natural Resources

Act 169 (*SB-411*) requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish a wolf harvesting season and to issue wolf harvesting licenses that authorize both hunting and trapping if the wolf is not on the Wisconsin or U.S. list of endangered or threatened species. If the number of license applications exceeds the number of licenses that DNR makes available for a year, DNR must issue 50 percent of the licenses by random selection and 50 percent through a cumulative preference system. The act authorizes DNR to close the season if necessary to effectively manage the wolf population. The act authorizes the use of dogs to hunt wolves, the hunting of wolves at night for part of the season, and the baiting of wolves with certain types of bait. The act establishes a wolf depredation program, under which payments may be made for the death or injury caused by wolves to livestock or pets, except for dogs being used to hunt wolves. The wolf hunting license fees that DNR collects are used to make the payments under this program.

Act 118 (*SB-368*) restructures the laws regarding discharges into wetlands and wetland mitigation. The changes include:

- Specifying that the issuance of a wetland permit by DNR replaces a water quality certification that is required by federal law.
- Requiring DNR to issue certain general wetland permits, including general permits for commercial, residential, municipal, agricultural, or recreational purposes, if the area of wetland to be affected does not exceed 10,000 square feet.
- Authorizing DNR to issue general permits that prohibit discharges into certain types of wetlands, such as calcareous and boreal rich fens and marshes containing wild rice.
- Establishing steps DNR must take in reviewing an application for an individual permit and requirements to be met to minimize adverse impacts to wetlands and to ensure there will not be a significant adverse impact.
- Requiring that mitigation be performed under each individual permit DNR

issues and eliminating the restriction that mitigation may not be used for discharges into areas of special natural resource interest.

- Requiring DNR to establish a mitigation program that includes the use of mitigation banks; participation in a process under which a payment may be made for creating or otherwise improving other wetlands, if DNR establishes such a process; and completion of actual mitigation within a certain distance from the discharge. The act requires that the ratio of mitigation be at least 1.2 acres improved for each acre affected.

Public Utilities

Act 22 (*January 2011 Special Session SB-13*) makes various changes to the Public Service Commission's (PSC) regulation of telecommunications providers, including the following:

- Limiting the PSC's authority to regulate both telecommunications utilities (TUs), which are telecommunications providers that resulted from the breakup of the Bell System under federal antitrust regulation in the 1970s and 1980s, and alternative telecommunications utilities (ATUs), which compete with TUs. The act generally subjects both TUs and ATUs to the same level of regulation by creating exemptions from requirements that applied to TUs under former law, limiting the requirements that the PSC was allowed to impose on ATUs under former law, eliminating price regulation and other types of alternative regulation of TUs, and allowing a TU to require that the PSC regulate the TU like an ATU.
- Imposing limitations on the intrastate switched access rates that telecommunications providers may charge each other. The requirements depend on the number of the telecommunications provider's access lines, and on the date the PSC initially certified the telecommunications provider as a TU or ATU. In general, the requirements impose deadlines by which a telecommunications provider's intrastate switched access rates may not exceed the interstate switched access rates that the telecommunications provider is allowed to charge under federal law.
- Requiring TUs and ATUs to file tariffs for intrastate switched access service and allowing the filing of tariffs for other services. The act also limits the PSC's authority regarding tariffs that TUs and ATUs elect to file with the PSC.
- Exempting interconnected voice over Internet protocol service from PSC regulation, except for requirements relating to interconnection agreements, intrastate switched access rates, and certain assessments.
- Limiting the PSC's authority to ensure universal access to telecommunications services and imposing requirements regarding the availability of basic voice service.
- Making changes to requirements for the use of another person's transmission equipment and property by public utilities and telecommunications providers.

State Government

State Finance

Act 32 (*AB-40*) removes the statutory limit on the total amount the Investment Board may annually assess the funds it manages for its share of the Investment Board's operating expenditures. Instead, the Investment Board may establish and monitor its own budget for operating expenditures and must report quarterly on its operating expenditures.

Transportation

Act 23 (*AB-7*) and **Act 32** (*AB-40*) allow the Department of Transportation (DOT), upon implementation of the federal REAL ID Act in Wisconsin, to issue driver's licenses and identification cards that are not compliant with REAL ID standards if they clearly state on their face that they cannot be accepted as identification for any official federal purpose and if they use a unique design or color to alert federal authorities that they are not REAL ID compliant. Various requirements, however, still apply to applications and application processing for REAL ID noncompliant driver's licenses and identification cards. The acts also create a religious belief

exception to the requirement that a photograph appear on a driver's license or identification card, although after the implementation of the federal REAL ID Act the exception applies only to REAL ID noncompliant driver's licenses and identification cards. The acts lengthen the valid period of a driving receipt issued by DOT, and create a similar identification card receipt issued by DOT, which serve as a temporary license or identification card while an application is being processed. The acts specify that DOT may not issue an identification card to a person who holds a driver's license from another state.

Act 32 (AB-40) modifies DOT's major highway projects program to establish two different categories of major highway projects. The first category encompasses major highway projects, as contemplated under preexisting law, except that the minimum total cost criteria is increased from \$5 million to \$30 million, adjusted for inflation. For these major highway projects, the act allows DOT to perform engineering and design work prior to legislative approval of the project. The second category of major highway projects encompasses projects that do not fall within the first category and that have a minimum total cost of \$75 million, adjusted for inflation. For these projects, the act allows DOT to prepare an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment for a project without approval by the Transportation Projects Commission (TPC), creates a different TPC review and approval process, and allows DOT to proceed with construction of a project upon TPC approval without additional legislative approval.

Act 32 also creates a category of highway projects called "southeast Wisconsin freeway megaprojects," which are projects on southeast Wisconsin freeways that have a total cost of more than \$500 million, adjusted for inflation. These projects may be funded only from specified appropriations, including bond proceeds, and no funding for construction of these projects may be provided without legislative approval. The act approves DOT's I-94 north-south corridor project and Zoo interchange project as southeast Wisconsin freeway megaprojects, authorizes approximately \$150 million in additional general obligation bonding to fund these two projects, and requires DOT to submit a report to JCF relating to financing the Zoo interchange project. Under preexisting law, these two projects were approved as southeast Wisconsin freeway rehabilitation projects. The act also transfers certain funds from the southeast Wisconsin freeway



The Wisconsin Assembly has invited many dignitaries to address it in the past, from Theodore Roosevelt (1911) to the Crown Prince of Norway (1939). In May 2013, the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet addressed the body. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)



The Senate Chamber. (Greg Anderson, Legislative Photographer)

rehabilitation program to the southeast Wisconsin freeway megaprojects program.

Act 32 also creates a category of projects called “high-cost state highway bridge projects,” which are projects involving the construction or rehabilitation of a bridge on the state trunk highway system that have a total cost of more than \$150 million, but which exclude certain types of projects. The act creates a separate funding source for these projects. However, the act also authorizes DOT to fund preliminary costs for the Hoan Bridge project in Milwaukee County, in the 2011-13 fiscal biennium, from DOT’s programs for major highway projects, state highway rehabilitation projects, and southeast Wisconsin freeway megaprojects.

Act 32 also requires DOT, in issuing a certificate when there is a security interest in the titled vehicle, to issue the certificate in the name of the vehicle owner but to deliver the certificate to the secured party rather than the vehicle owner. The certificate may be in an electronic or digital form.

Act 32 also eliminates the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SERTA) and eliminates authorization to create a Dane County Regional Transit Authority (RTA), a Chippewa Valley RTA, and a Chequamegon Bay RTA, all of which were created or authorized in 2009 Wisconsin Act 28. The act also eliminates the Southeast Wisconsin Transit Capital Assistance Program, under which DOT was formerly authorized to award grants from bond proceeds to the SERTA for transit capital improvements.

Act 91 (*SB-96*) does the following:

- Adds several items to an existing list of violations for which a motor vehicle manufacturer, importer, or distributor (distributor) may be subject to license revocation or a suit for damages.
- Requires a distributor to compensate a motor vehicle dealer for motor vehicle service work based on the dealer’s effective nonwarranty labor rate and average percentage markup over dealer cost for parts. The act also specifies the method by which these rates are determined and contested.
- Requires a distributor to pay termination benefits to a dealer when the distributor terminates a franchise that may constitute less than the entire agreement between the distributor and the dealer.
- Requires a distributor to pay a dealer the franchise’s fair market value if a franchise is terminated because the distributor discontinued a line make.
- Adds several items to an existing list of termination benefits that a distributor must pay to a dealer upon termination of a franchise.
- Provides several exceptions to the requirement that a distributor pay termination benefits.
- Requires a distributor to indemnify a dealer against certain claims alleging defective or negligent manufacture or design of a motor vehicle or accessory.

The act does not apply to motorcycle manufacturers, importers, or distributors.

MAJOR PROPOSALS THAT FAILED ENACTMENT OR ADOPTION

Business and Consumer Law

Assembly Bill 129 and *Senate Bill 94* would have established the Wisconsin Venture Capital Authority, as well as an investment fund and investment programs to be administered by the authority to invest in venture capital funds and Wisconsin start-up and other businesses.

Constitutional Amendments

Assembly Joint Resolution 63, proposed by the 2011 legislature on first consideration, would have allowed the recall of a public officer only if that officer had been charged with a crime punishable by imprisonment of one year or more, or against whom a finding of probable cause of violation of the state code of ethics had been made.

Assembly Joint Resolution 100, proposed by the 2011 legislature on first consideration, would have required the state to account for all funds it receives or spends in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and to gradually extinguish any deficit in a state fund.

Senate Joint Resolution 16, proposed to the 2011 legislature on second consideration, would have imposed restrictions on a county executive’s partial veto power over appropriations that are

identical to the restrictions imposed on the governor's partial veto power over appropriations.

Senate Joint Resolution 60, proposed to the 2011 legislature on second consideration, would have prohibited the governor, in exercising his or her partial veto power over appropriation bills, from vetoing part of a section of a bill without rejecting the entire section.

Education

Assembly Bill 51 and *Senate Bill 22* would have made extensive changes to laws relating to charter schools, including creating the Charter School Authorizing Board, allowing additional charter school authorizers, and eliminating the limit on the number of pupils who may attend virtual charter schools.

Assembly Bill 110 and *Senate Bill 486* would have created the Special Needs Scholarship Program, providing scholarships to disabled pupils to allow them to attend a private school or a public school located outside their school district of residence.

Environment

Assembly Bill 426 and *Senate Bill 488* would have established requirements for iron mining separate from those for mining for other metallic minerals.

Public Utilities

Assembly Bill 72 and *Senate Bill 50* would have repealed rules promulgated by the PSC regarding wind energy systems.
