

Legislative Branch

The legislative branch: profile of the legislative branch, description of the legislative process, summary of 2013-2014 legislation, and description of legislative committees and service agencies

Assembly Chamber



(Sarah Girkin)

OFFICERS OF THE 2015 LEGISLATURE

SENATE

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 President pro tempore Senator Rick Gudex
 Chief clerk Honorable Jeffrey Renk
 Sergeant at arms Honorable Edward A. Blazel

Majority Party Officers

Minority Party Officers

Leader	Senator Scott L. Fitzgerald	Senator Jennifer Shilling
Assistant leader	vacant	Senator Dave Hansen
Caucus chairperson	Senator Sheila E. Harsdorf	Senator Julie M. Lassa
Caucus vice chairperson	Senator Van H. Wanggaard	Senator Kathleen Vinehout

Chief Clerk: Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Location: B20 South East, State Capitol; Telephone: (608) 266-2517.

Sergeant at Arms: Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Location: B35 South, State Capitol; Telephone: (608) 266-1801.

ASSEMBLY

Speaker Representative 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 Jim Steineke	Representative Peter W. Barca
Assistant leader	Representative Dan Knodl	Representative Katrina Shankland
Caucus chairperson	Representative John Murtha	Representative Andy Jorgensen
Caucus vice chairperson	Representative Lee Nerison	Representative JoCasta Zamarripa
Caucus secretary	Representative Jessie Rodriguez	Representative Beth Meyers
Caucus sergeant at arms	Representative Samantha Kerkman	Representative Josh Zepnick

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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 2015 Legislature is the 102nd Wisconsin Legislature. It convened on January 5, 2015, and will continue until January 3, 2017.

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 2015 Legislature: Senate: 33 members, 202 employees (including senators); Assembly: 99 members, 317 employees (including representatives).

Total Budget 2013-15: \$149,991,100 (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 1937, the Progressive Party had a plurality in both houses.

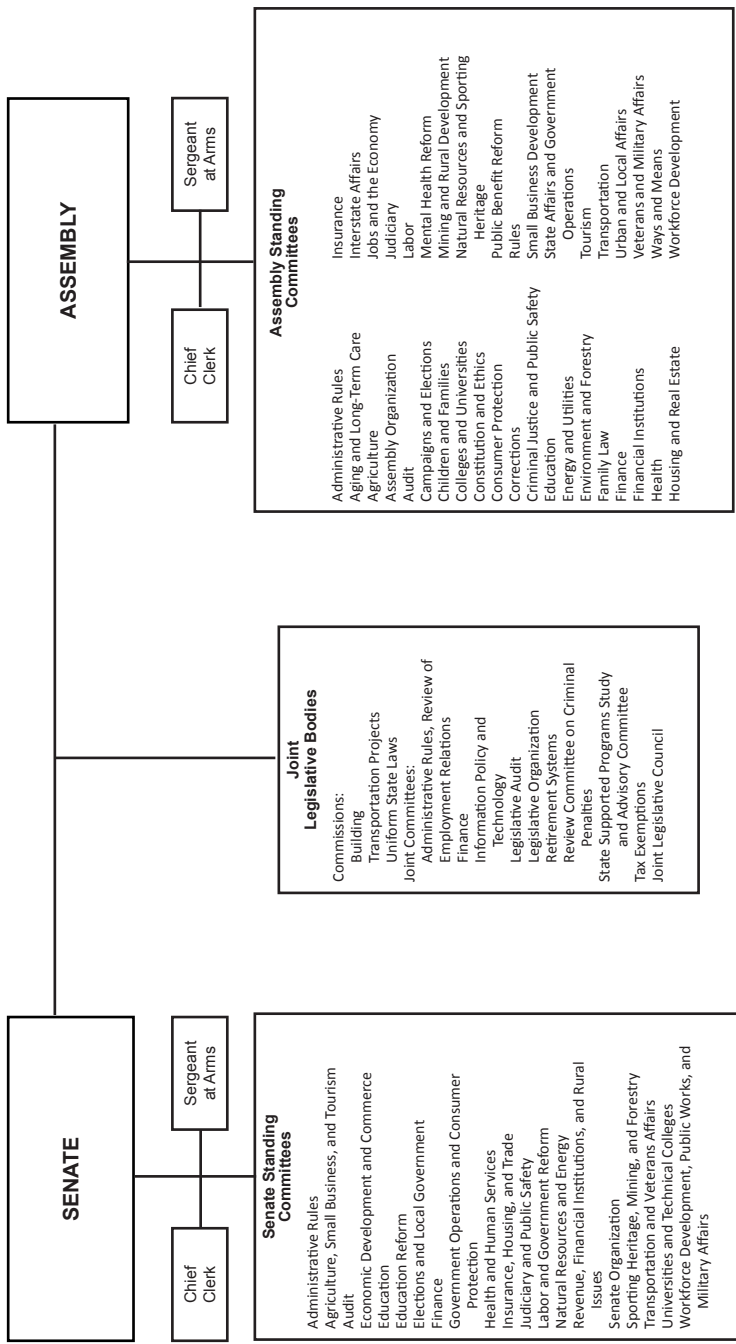
Party organization in the legislature is based on the party group called the “caucus”. In each house, all members of a particular political party form that party’s caucus. Thus, there are four caucuses related to the party divisions in the two houses. The primary purpose of a caucus is to help party members maintain a unified position on critical issues. Party leaders, however, do not expect to secure party uniformity on every measure under consideration.

Caucus meetings may be held at regular intervals or whenever convened by party leaders, and occasionally the senate and assembly caucuses of the same party meet in joint caucus. A caucus meeting is scheduled shortly after the general election and before the opening of the session to select candidates for the various leadership positions in each house. Although each party caucus nominates a slate of officers, the positions are usually won by the nominees of the majority party when a vote is taken in the full house.

Legislative Officers and Leadership. The Wisconsin Constitution originally required the lieutenant governor to serve as president of the senate. As a result of an April 1979 constitutional amendment, the senate now selects its own president from among its members. When the president of the senate is absent or unable to preside, the president pro tempore, elected from the membership, may preside as substitute president.

The presiding officer of the assembly is the speaker, who is elected by majority vote of the assembly membership. The speaker supervises all other officers of the chamber and appoints

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE





Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald is responsible for shepherding his party's agenda through the Senate. President Mary Lazich presides impartially over debate. Chief Clerk Jeff Renk (right) is the chief administrative officer of the Senate. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

committees. When the speaker is absent or unable to preside, the speaker pro tempore, who is also elected from the membership, may substitute.

Each party in each house elects floor leaders, respectively known as the majority leader and assistant majority leader and the minority leader and assistant minority leader. To varying degrees, these party officers play powerful roles in directing and coordinating legislative activities.

Each house has a chief clerk and a sergeant at arms, who are elected by, but are not themselves members of, the legislature. The chief clerk serves as the clerk of the house when it is in session and supervises the preparation of legislative records. In conjunction with the presiding officers, the chief clerks supervise personnel and administrative functions for their respective houses. The sergeants at arms maintain order in and about the chambers and supervise the messengers.

Legislative Compensation. When the 2015 Legislature convened on January 5, 2015, all members were eligible for a salary of \$50,950 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 a per diem allowance for living expenses for each day spent in Madison on legislative business. For senators, the maximum per diem is \$88 per day; for representatives, it is \$138 per day if staying overnight and \$69 per day if not staying overnight. Per diem may not be claimed in the assembly for more than 153 days in a year. 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.

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 2 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 to 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 2-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 2015-2016 session schedule, for example, is structured around 16 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 to Thursday of each week. Toward the end of many floorperiods, however, the houses may meet continuously during the day Tuesday to 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.

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 2013 Legislature, there had been 93 special sessions since Wisconsin became a state in 1848. It is possible for a regular session and a special session to be scheduled at different times during a week or even on the same day. Because special sessions may occur at any time during the legislative biennium, enactments resulting from a special session are now numbered within the regular sequence of biennial laws.

Session Records. Each house of the legislature keeps a record of its actions known as the daily journal. This record differs from the federal *Congressional Record* in that it does not provide a transcript or abbreviated account of speeches made on the floor. It is, instead, an outline record of the business before the house, including procedural actions taken on all measures considered on that particular day, roll call votes, communications received from the governor or the other house, special committee reports, and miscellaneous items.

2015-2016 SESSION SCHEDULE

January 5, 2015	2015 Inauguration
January 7, 2015	Floorperiod
January 13, 2015	Floorperiod
January 20 to 29, 2015	Floorperiod
February 3 and 4, 2015	Floorperiod
February 10 to 12, 2015	Floorperiod
February 24 to March 5, 2015	Floorperiod
March 12, 2015	Deadline for sending bills to governor
March 17 to 19, 2015	Floorperiod
April 14 to 23, 2015	Floorperiod
May 5 to 14, 2015	Floorperiod
June 9 to 30, 2015 (or until passage of the budget)	Floorperiod
August 6, 2015	Deadline for sending nonbudget bills to governor
August 6, 2015 (or later)	Deadline for sending budget bill to governor*
September 15 to 24, 2015	Floorperiod
October 20 to November 5, 2015	Floorperiod
December 10, 2015	Deadline for sending bills to governor
January 12 to 21, 2016	Floorperiod
February 9 to 18, 2016	Floorperiod
March 8 to 17, 2016	Floorperiod
April 5 to 7, 2016	Last general-business floorperiod
April 21, 2016	Deadline for sending bills to governor
April 26 to 28, 2016	Limited-business floorperiod
May 5, 2016	Deadline for sending bills to governor
May 17 and 18, 2016	Veto review floorperiod
April 8, 2016, to January 3, 2017	Interim committee work
June 1, 2016	Deadline for sending bills to governor
January 3, 2017	2017 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: 2015 Senate Joint Resolution 1.

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.

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 <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov>. Reference copies of all these legislative documents are available at the Legislative Reference Bureau, and numerous libraries throughout the state also receive them. Individuals and organizations may subscribe to receive printed versions of legislative documents. (See the table on legislative service in this section for fees and details.)

Standing Committees. To a large extent, the legislature does its work in committees. In the 2015 Legislature, the senate has 20 standing committees and the assembly 38, 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 2 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 four majority and three minority party members 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.



Members of the legislature often join the general public in advocating legislation before a legislative committee. Senator Luther Olsen of Ripon testified in April 2015. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

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 5 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 important part of the legislative process plays out outside the legislative chambers, in the field of public opinion. Here Senator Leah Vukmir and Representatives Rob Hutton and André Jacque address members of the press. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

**NEWS MEDIA CORRESPONDENTS
COVERING THE 2015 LEGISLATURE
January 5, 2015**

Organization	Correspondents	Telephone
Newspaper and Wire Services		
Associated Press	Scott Bauer, Todd Richmond	255-3679
Capital Times	Jessica Opoien	252-6429
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	Matt Defour, Dee Hall, Mary Spicuzza	252-6144/252-6132/ 252-6122
Radio and Television		
WIBA-AM and FM (Madison)	Robin Colbert	271-6397
WISC-TV (Madison)	Jessica Arp, Colin Benedict	(608) 332-9453/277-5246
WKOW-TV (Madison)	Kristine Barbaresi, Tony Galli, Jennifer Kliese, Greg Neumann, Joseph Radske	273-2727
WMTV-TV (Madison)	Kate Pabich	274-1500
WOLX-FM (Madison)	Kitty Dunn	826-0077
Wisconsin Public Radio	Gilman Halsted, Shawn Johnson, Michael Leland, Shamane Mills, Noah Ovshinsky	263-4358/263-7985
Wisconsin Public Television	Kathy Bissen, Frederica Freyberg, Andy Moore, Zac Schultz, Christine Sloan-Miller, Andy Soth, Joel Waldinger	263-2121/263-8496/ 265-6646/263-5628/ 263-6023/263-7124/ 263-4599/ 890-2840
Wisconsin Radio Network	Andrew Beckett, Bob Hague, Jackie Johnson	251-3900
Internet News Service		
Wispolitics.com	J.R. Ross, Mike Schramm, Chris Thompson	441-8418

Source: 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. **Law and Legislation** allows users to access legislative documents by bill or act number for the current or recent sessions as well as the current statutes and Administrative Code. The **Spotlight** link provides a weekly update on recent actions in the legislature. In addition, the **legislative service agencies** have individual home pages on which many of their publications are available.

Archives 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 through the 2 houses of the legislature to individual legislator's home pages, which include e-mail addresses, district maps, committee assignments, and biographical information. Some legislators also provide 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 Internet site <http://notify.legis.state.wisconsin.gov>, users will receive daily or weekly e-mails of relevant activities.



Jennifer Shilling of La Crosse was elected Senate Minority Leader by her colleagues for the 2015 session. (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



Occasionally, standing committees of the Senate and Assembly hold joint hearings. Representative Kathy Bernier, chairperson of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections, and Senator Devin LeMahieu, the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government, held such a hearing in March 2015, on campaign finance. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

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 laws and its desirability as a matter of public policy.

Since 1967, the LRB has prepared an analysis of each bill introduced in the legislature. The analysis is printed in the bill immediately following the title. 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 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 Internet 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 *Senate Journal*, January 16, 2015:

The committee on **Judiciary and Public Safety** reports and recommends:

Senate Joint Resolution 2

Relating to: election of chief justice (second consideration).

Adoption:

Ayes: 3 – Senators Wanggaard, Vukmir and Lasee.

Noes: 2 – Senators Risser and L. Taylor.

Van Wanggaard

Chairperson

Committee chairpersons determine the scheduling of committee hearings. A committee is allowed a reasonable period 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 2015 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 procedure may seem unduly cumbersome to the onlooker, but it helps the houses operate in an organized fashion. The process is designed to protect the minority in its right to be heard and to promote careful deliberation and orderly consideration of all legislation. For particularly difficult procedural questions, the presiding officer of each house has access to such standard sources as *Mason’s Manual of Legislative Procedure*, *Jefferson’s Manual*, and *Rulings of the Chair*.

Second Reading. Once a bill is scheduled for house action, the clerk gives it a second reading by title. The purpose of a second reading is to consider amendments. An amendment may be a “simple” amendment, which makes changes within the bill, or a “substitute amendment”, which completely replaces the original bill. Members may offer, debate, and vote upon amendments at any time prior to a vote to “engross” the measure and read it a third time. Engrossment of a bill incorporates all adopted amendments and all approved technical corrections into a proposal in its house of origin. The rules of both houses require a formal delay after the proposal is engrossed, which gives legislators time to reconsider the issues raised by the bill. In many cases, however, the rules are suspended by unanimous consent or a two-thirds vote so that second and third readings can occur on the same legislative day.

Third Reading. The purpose of the third reading is to make a final decision on a proposal itself. After a third reading, the proposal is put to the house for a vote with the following questions: “This bill having been read 3 separate times, the question is, ‘Shall the bill pass?’” (for the senate) or “Shall the bill be passed?” (for the assembly). Members can debate the bill’s contents at this point, but it is not subject to amendment. When all members finish speaking they vote. A bill may pass on a voice vote, unless a roll call vote is required by the state constitution, by law or legislative rule, or by request of a prescribed number of members.

Action in the Second House. If the bill passes, it is “messed” 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 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.



Representative Tyler August is the Speaker Pro Tempore and typically presides over Assembly floor sessions. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

On average about 1,600 bills were introduced in each of the past 10 legislatures, but only about 20 percent 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 that 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., 2015 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 *2013-2014 Wisconsin Statutes* includes all statutory changes resulting from laws enacted by the 2013 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 to 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 the governor's program initiatives. When these are completed, the committee 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



Representatives Chris Taylor of Madison and Mary Czaja of Irma, members of the Joint Committee on Finance, focus on a particular aspect of state finance. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

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 Internet site: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/bluebook.htm>.

2015-2016 LEGISLATIVE SERVICE

The complete 2015-2016 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 2015-2016 Legislative Service will expire on December 31, 2016.

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Senator Lena Taylor of Milwaukee offered her views of a proposed constitutional amendment on January 20, 2015. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

EXECUTIVE VETOES, 1931 – 2013 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
2013	1	1	—	4	4	—	57	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 – 2015**

Legislative Session ¹	Senate						Assembly						
	D	R	P	S	SD	M ⁴	D	R	P	S	SD	M ⁵	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	—	—	1	—	17	80	—	—	—	3	—
1911	4	27	—	—	2	—	29	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	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	—	—	—	—	—
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 ³	15	15	—	—	—	3	52	47	—	—	—	—	—
1995 ³	16	17	—	—	—	—	48	51	—	—	—	—	—
1997 ³	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	—	—	—	—	—
2015	14	18	—	—	—	1	36	63	—	—	—	—	—

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 2013-14:

Hardcover 6-volume set – \$94.25 (picked up); \$101 (shipped)

Softcover 6-volume set – \$61.50 (picked up); \$67.50 (shipped)

2013 Laws of Wisconsin: Hardcover 2-volume set – \$44.15 (picked up); \$48.85 (shipped)

Wisconsin Administrative Code: Individual codes can be ordered from Document Sales, (608) 266-3358.

Machine-Readable Data

WisLaw, the computer-searchable CD-ROM, contains the Wisconsin Statutes and Annotations, plus the Wisconsin and U.S. Constitutions, Supreme Court Rules, Wisconsin Acts, recent Opinions of the Attorney General, the Administrative Code, 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.



For the third consecutive session, the Wisconsin Assembly welcomed a large freshman class. Representative David Bowen of Milwaukee is one of 25 members serving a first term. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE 2015 WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

All standing committees of the 2015 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.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

Administrative Rules — NASS, *chairperson*; LASEE, LeMAHIEU; MILLER*, HARRIS DODD.

Agriculture, Small Business, and Tourism — MOULTON, *chairperson*; TIFFANY, *vice chairperson*; HARSDDORF, PETROWSKI, LeMAHIEU; VINEHOUT*, ERPENBACH, HANSEN, L. TAYLOR.

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

Economic Development and Commerce — GUDEX, *chairperson*; PETROWSKI, *vice chairperson*; DARLING; LASSA*, RINGHAND.

Education — OLSEN, *chairperson*; DARLING, *vice chairperson*; VUKMIR, NASS; C. LARSON*, RISSER, BEWLEY.

Education Reform — FARROW, *chairperson*; HARSDDORF, *vice chairperson*; NASS; HARRIS DODD*, VINEHOUT.

Elections and Local Government — LeMAHIEU, *chairperson*; FARROW, *vice chairperson*; WANGGAARD; RISSER*, MILLER.

Finance — DARLING, *chairperson*; OLSEN, *vice chairperson*; HARSDDORF, VUKMIR, TIFFANY, MARKLEIN; L. TAYLOR*, ERPENBACH.



Senator Dave Hansen has served as Assistant Leader of the Democratic caucus since 2003. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Government Operations and Consumer Protection — STROEBEL, *chairperson*; LEMAHIEU, *vice chairperson*; FARROW; HARRIS DODD*, WIRCH.

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

Insurance, Housing, and Trade — LASEE, *chairperson*; OLSEN, *vice chairperson*; ROTH; BEWLEY*, HARRIS DODD.

Judiciary and Public Safety — WANGGAARD, *chairperson*; VUKMIR, *vice chairperson*; LASEE; RISSER*, L. TAYLOR.

Labor and Government Reform — NASS, *chairperson*; WANGGAARD, *vice chairperson*; MARKLEIN; WIRCH*, C. LARSON.

Natural Resources and Energy — COWLES, *chairperson*; LASEE, *vice chairperson*; OLSEN; MILLER*, WIRCH.

Revenue, Financial Institutions, and Rural Issues — MARKLEIN, *chairperson*; FARROW (through 4/22/15), STROEBEL (from 4/22/15), *vice chairperson*; TIFFANY; LASSA*, RINGHAND.

Senate Organization — FITZGERALD, *chairperson*; LAZICH, FARROW; SHILLING*, HANSEN.

Sporting Heritage, Mining, and Forestry — TIFFANY, *chairperson*; ROTH, *vice chairperson*; MOULTON; WIRCH*, VINEHOUT.

Transportation and Veterans Affairs — PETROWSKI, *chairperson*; MARKLEIN, *vice chairperson*; COWLES; CARPENTER*, HANSEN.

Universities and Technical Colleges — HARSDDORF, *chairperson*; NASS, *vice chairperson*; GUXEX; HANSEN*, BEWLEY.

Workforce Development, Public Works, and Military Affairs — ROTH, *chairperson*; GUXEX, *vice chairperson*; FARROW (through 4/22/15), STROEBEL (from 4/22/15); C. LARSON*, LASSA.

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEES

Administrative Rules — BALLWEG, *chairperson*; KNUDSON, *vice chairperson*; J. OTT; HEBL*, SHANKLAND.

Aging and Long-Term Care — WEATHERSTON, *chairperson*; QUINN, *vice chairperson*; PETRYK, NERISON, BERNIER, R. BROOKS; SARGENT*, MEYERS, BROSTOFF.

Agriculture — NERISON, *chairperson*; NOVAK, *vice chairperson*; TAUCHEN, A. OTT, BERNIER, RIPP, TRANEL, E. BROOKS, KITCHENS, VANDERMEER; DANOU*, JORGENSEN, GOYKE, KESSLER, CONSIDINE.

Assembly Organization — VOS, *chairperson*; STEINEKE, *vice chairperson*; KNODL, AUGUST, MURTHA; BARCA*, SHANKLAND, JORGENSEN.

Audit — KERKMAN, *chairperson*; MACCO, *vice chairperson*; NYGREN; SARGENT*, BERCEAU.

Campaigns and Elections — BERNIER, *chairperson*; VORPAGEL, *vice chairperson*; THIESFELDT, HORLACHER, CRAIG, SANFELIPPO; BERCEAU*, ZAMARRIPA, KESSLER.

Children and Families — RODRIGUEZ, *chairperson*; GANNON, *vice chairperson*; R. BROOKS, VORPAGEL, KERKMAN, BRANDTIEN, HEATON, NEYLON; JOHNSON*, BILLINGS, KAHL, SUBECK.

Colleges and Universities — MURPHY, *chairperson*; R. BROOKS, *vice chairperson*; ROHRKASTE, QUINN, RODRIGUEZ, PETRYK, BALLWEG, KRUG, TRANEL, MACCO; WACHS*, BERCEAU, BILLINGS, HESSELBEIN, JORGENSEN.

Constitution and Ethics — KAPENGA, *chairperson*, HUTTON, *vice chairperson*; JAGLER, KREMER, HORLACHER, JARCHOW; KESSLER*, WACHS, GOYKE.

Consumer Protection — KRUG, *chairperson*; HEATON, *vice chairperson*; KATSMAN, NEYLON, NERISON, VANDERMEER; SINICKI*, POPE, YOUNG.

Corrections — HUTTON, *chairperson*; BRANDTIEN, *vice chairperson*; GANNON, E. BROOKS, NYGREN, KLEEFISCH; BARNES*, POPE, BOWEN.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety — KLEEFISCH, *chairperson*; KREMER, *vice chairperson*; SPIROS, J. OTT, RODRIGUEZ, HORLACHER, NOVAK, BORN; GOYKE*, KESSLER, ZAMARRIPA, JOHNSON.

- Education** — THIESFELDT, *chairperson*; KITCHENS, *vice chairperson*; JAGLER, KNUDSON, RODRIGUEZ, R. BROOKS, HORLACHER, MURPHY, QUINN, HUTTON; POPE*, SINICKI, GENRICH, BARNES, CONSIDINE.
- Energy and Utilities** — KUGLITSCH, *chairperson*; STEFFEN, *vice chairperson*; T. LARSON, JACQUE, PETERSEN, WEATHERSTON, TRANEL, JARCHOW, PETRYK, NEYLON; ZEPNICK*, KAHL, SARGENT, GENRICH, STUCK.
- Environment and Forestry** — MURSAU, *chairperson*; KRUG, *vice chairperson*; CZAJA, KITCHENS, SWEARINGEN, EDMING, R. BROOKS, ALLEN; MASON*, MILROY, HEBL, STUCK, CONSIDINE.
- Family Law** — T. LARSON, *chairperson*; BERNIER, *vice chairperson*; THIESFELDT, CRAIG, MURSAU, KLEEFISCH; HEBL*, JOHNSON, SUBECK.
- Finance** — NYGREN, *chairperson*; KOOYENGA, *vice chairperson*; KNUDSON, LOUDENBECK, SCHRAA, CZAJA; C. TAYLOR*, HINTZ.
- Financial Institutions** — CRAIG, *chairperson*; KATSMAN, *vice chairperson*; KAPENGA, JARCHOW, SANFELIPPO, BORN, BALLWEG, WEATHERSTON, MURPHY, PETERSEN, KITCHENS; DOYLE*, ZEPNICK, GENRICH, SARGENT, JOHNSON, BROSTOFF.
- Health** — SANFELIPPO, *chairperson*; ROHRKASTE, *vice chairperson*; EDMING, SKOWRONSKI, KREMER, TITTL, KAPENGA, PETERSEN; KOLSTE*, ZAMARRIPA, RIEMER, SUBECK.
- Housing and Real Estate** — JAGLER, *chairperson*; ALLEN, *vice chairperson*; R. BROOKS, KATSMAN, MURPHY, MURTHA; YOUNG*, GENRICH, STUCK.
- Insurance** — PETERSEN, *chairperson*; TITTL, *vice chairperson*; GANNON, STEFFEN, JAGLER, PETRYK, CRAIG, TRANEL, BORN, AUGUST; DOYLE*, DANOU, BERCEAU, KAHL, YOUNG.
- Interstate Affairs** — JACQUE, *chairperson*; BILLINGS, *vice chairperson*; ROHRKASTE, E. BROOKS, KERKMAN, A. OTT, HORLACHER; YOUNG*, ZEPNICK.
- Jobs and the Economy** — NEYLON, *chairperson*; KRUG, *vice chairperson*; TAUCHEN, ALLEN, KULP, TITTL, KUGLITSCH, MACCO, ROHRKASTE, STEFFEN; OHNSTAD*, ZAMARRIPA, BARNES, SPREITZER, STUCK.
- Judiciary** — J. OTT, *chairperson*; HORLACHER, *vice chairperson*; THIESFELDT, HEATON, T. LARSON, KERKMAN; WACHS*, HEBL, GOYKE.
- Labor** — JACQUE, *chairperson*; SPIROS, *vice chairperson*; KNODL, KAPENGA, KULP, KUGLITSCH; SINICKI*, MASON, OHNSTAD.
- Mental Health Reform** — TITTL, *chairperson*; JAGLER, *vice chairperson*; BALLWEG, NOVAK, SANFELIPPO, ROHRKASTE, VANDERMEER, RODRIGUEZ; RIEMER*, SARGENT, BROSTOFF, CONSIDINE.
- Mining and Rural Development** — KULP, *chairperson*; MURSAU, *vice chairperson*; BERNIER, NOVAK, QUINN, VANDERMEER, E. BROOKS, KRUG, T. LARSON, KREMER; MILROY*, DANOU, BILLINGS, CONSIDINE, SPREITZER.
- Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage** — A. OTT, *chairperson*; QUINN, *vice chairperson*; KLEEFISCH, MURSAU, NERISON, RIPP, BORN, TITTL, SKOWRONSKI, EDMING; MILROY*, DANOU, HESSELBEIN, SHANKLAND, SPREITZER.
- Public Benefit Reform** — BORN, *chairperson*; KAPENGA, *vice chairperson*; BRANDTJEN, VORPAGEL, SCHRAA, KREMER, CRAIG, NEYLON, KRUG, TAUCHEN; JORGENSEN*, GOYKE, KOLSTE, SPREITZER, SUBECK.
- Rules** — STEINEKE, *chairperson*; VOS, *vice chairperson*; AUGUST, KNODL, MURTHA, BALLWEG, KUGLITSCH, JAGLER, BORN; BARCA*, SHANKLAND, JORGENSEN, ZAMARRIPA, POPE, HEBL.
- Small Business Development** — TAUCHEN, *chairperson*; EDMING, *vice chairperson*; TRANEL, HUTTON, ALLEN, SWEARINGEN, T. LARSON, GANNON, VANDERMEER, SKOWRONSKI; JORGENSEN*, SARGENT, DOYLE, BARNES, BOWEN.
- State Affairs and Government Operations** — SWEARINGEN, *chairperson*; CRAIG, *vice chairperson*; JAGLER, BRANDTJEN, KLEEFISCH, GANNON, RIPP, KULP, TAUCHEN, VORPAGEL; ZAMARRIPA*, SINICKI, KAHL, OHNSTAD, BROSTOFF.
- Tourism** — TRANEL, *chairperson*; JARCHOW, *vice chairperson*; MURSAU, TAUCHEN, KLEEFISCH, KITCHENS, BORN, A. OTT, SWEARINGEN, BALLWEG; BILLINGS*, DOYLE, OHNSTAD, MASON, MEYERS.

Transportation — RIPP, *chairperson*; SPIROS, *vice chairperson*; THIESFELDT, WEATHERSTON, A. OTT, SANFELIPPO, VORPAGEL, T. LARSON, SWEARINGEN, MACCO; KAHL*, DANOU, KOLSTE, BOWEN, MEYERS.

Urban and Local Affairs — E. BROOKS, *chairperson*; HUTTON, *vice chairperson*; NOVAK, QUINN, STEFFEN, SKOWRONSKI; GENRICH*, YOUNG, SUBECK.

Veterans and Military Affairs — SKOWRONSKI, *chairperson*; VANDERMEER, *vice chairperson*; WEATHERSTON, PETRYK, ALLEN, EDMING, NERISON, HEATON, J. OTT, TITTL; HESSELBEIN*, MILROY, SINICKI, GOYKE, RIEMER.

Ways and Means — SPIROS, *chairperson*; MACCO, *vice chairperson*; KERKMAN, NOVAK, STEFFEN, JACQUE, KATSMAN, PETERSEN; RIEMER*, ZEPNICK, OHNSTAD, BROSTOFF.

Workforce Development — PETRYK, *chairperson*; WEATHERSTON, *vice chairperson*; MURPHY, RIPP, KUGLITSCH, KATSMAN, KULP, BERNIER, BRANDTIJEN, KITCHENS; SHANKLAND*, KOLSTE, RIEMER, SPREITZER, BOWEN.



Representative Joel Kleefisch raises a point during a meeting of the Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

**PERSONAL DATA ON WISCONSIN LEGISLATORS
2005 – 2015 Sessions**

	2005		2007		2009		2011		2013		2015	
	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.*	Sen.	Rep.*	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.
Party affiliation												
Democrat	14	39	18	47	18	52	14	38	15	39	14	36
Republican	19	60	15	52	15	46	19	60	18	60	19	63
Number with previous legislative service												
In senate	28	0	29	0	31	0	26	0	30	0	27	0
In assembly	23	81	23	82	23	86	23	69	25	74	24	74
Highest number of prior sessions in same house	21	17	22	18	23	19	24	14	25	13	26	14
Occupations												
Full-time legislator	11	39	12	38	11	39	11	32	12	35	11	34
Attorney	2	11	3	11	3	12	3	8	3	7	2	7
Farmer	3	9	3	5	3	5	2	6	2	4	1	6
Other	17	40	15	45	16	43	16	53	16	53	19	52
Education												
High school only	4	9	2	7	1	7	0	4	1	5	1	4
Beyond high school	29	90	31	92	32	92	33	95	32	94	32	95
Bachelor's or associate degree	26	70	28	69	29	69	29	73	28	72	28	69
Advanced degree	8	34	10	37	11	35	10	27	9	27	9	24
Number with experience on local governing body												
County board	4	18	4	17	4	15	6	16	7	18	9	19
Municipal board	10	28	12	25	12	30	9	29	11	30	9	29
Age												
Oldest	77	77	79	79	81	80	83	72	85	72	87	76
Youngest	34	28	36	28	38	29	30	25	32	25	34	24
Average	52	50	54	50	55	50	56	49	57	49	57	48
Veterans	4	13	2	16	2	16	2	13	2	10	3	7
Marital status												
Single	10	25	8	25	9	24	7	18	9	22	10	23
Married	23	70	25	69	24	71	26	79	24	76	23	75
Widowed	0	4	0	5	0	4	0	2	0	1	0	1
Number of women	8	26	8	22	7	22	8	23	9	24	11	22

*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 2015.



Representative Samantha Kerkman and Senator Robert Cowles serve as cochairpersons of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee 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 NASS, REPRESENTATIVE BALLWEG, *cochairpersons*; SENATORS LASEE, LEMAHIEU; MILLER*, HARRIS DODD; REPRESENTATIVES KNUDSON, J. OTT; HEBL*, SHANKLAND.

Mailing Addresses: Senator Nass, Room 10 South, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Representative Ballweg, Room 210 North, State Capitol, P.O. Box 8952, Madison 53708-8952.

Telephones: Senator Nass, 266-2635; Representative Ballweg, 266-8077.

E-mail: sen.nass@legis.wisconsin.gov; rep.ballweg@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

objections, 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.



Minority Leader Peter Barca and Assistant Minority Leader Katrina Shankland make their case to Speaker Robin Vos on March 5, 2015. (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*; SENATOR MOULTON, *vice chairperson*; SENATORS PETROWSKI; RINGHAND; REPRESENTATIVES SWEARINGEN, BORN; KAHL; BOB BRANDHERM (citizen member appointed by governor). Nonvoting advisory members from Department of Administration: SCOTT A. NEITZEL (departmental secretary), vacancy (chief engineer), vacancy (chief architect).

Secretary: SUMMER R. STRAND, *administrator*, Division of Facilities Development, Department of Administration.

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

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

Telephone: 266-1855.

Fax: 267-2710.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.48.

Agency Responsibility: The State of Wisconsin Building Commission coordinates the state building program which includes construction of new buildings; the remodeling, renovation, and maintenance of existing facilities; necessary lands; and required capital equipment. 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 2013-15 was \$1,458,014,300. 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 WANGGAARD, TAYLOR; REPRESENTATIVES JACQUE, DOYLE; BRAD SCHIMEL (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 Wanggaard, Room 319 South, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison 53707-7882; Representative Jacque, Room 212 North, State Capitol, P.O. Box 8952, Madison 53708-8952.

Telephones: Senator Wanggaard, 266-1832; Representative Jacque, 266-9870.

E-mail: sen.wanggaard@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. The attorney general, secretary of corrections, and state public defender serve *ex officio*. The supreme court appoints one reserve judge residing somewhere within judicial administrative districts one through 5, and another from districts 6 through 10. Public members appointed by the governor must include an individual with law enforcement experience and one who is an elected county official.

Joint Committee on EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

Members: SENATOR LAZICH (senate president), REPRESENTATIVE VOS (assembly speaker), SENATORS FITZGERALD (majority leader), SHILLING (minority leader); REPRESENTATIVES STEINEKE (majority



*Senator Mark Miller and Senator Janet Bewley share a lighter moment during Senate floor debate.
(Greg Anderson, Legislative Photographer)*

leader), BARCA (minority leader); SENATOR DARLING, REPRESENTATIVE NYGREN (joint finance committee cochairpersons).

Mailing Address: Legislative Council Staff, P.O. Box 2536, Madison 53701-2536.

Location: 1 East Main Street, Suite 401, Madison.

Telephone: 266-1304.

Statutory References: Sections 13.111, 20.923 (4), and 230.12; Chapter 111, Subchapter V.

Agency Responsibility: The Joint Committee on Employment Relations approves all changes to the collective bargaining agreements that cover state employees represented by unions, and the compensation plans for nonrepresented state employees. These plans and agreements include pay adjustments; fringe benefits; performance awards; pay equity adjustments; and other items related to wages, hours, and conditions of employment. The committee also approves the assignment of unclassified positions to the executive salary group ranges.

In the case of unionized employees, the Office of State Employment Relations or, for University of Wisconsin bargaining units, the Board of Regents or the UW-Madison, 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: the presiding officers of each house; the majority and minority leaders of each house; and the cochairpersons of the Joint Committee on Finance. It is assisted in its work by the Legislative Council Staff and the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

Joint Committee on FINANCE

Members: SENATOR DARLING, REPRESENTATIVE NYGREN, *cochairpersons*; SENATORS OLSEN, HARSDORF, VUKMIR, TIFFANY, MARKLEIN; L. TAYLOR*, ERPENBACH; REPRESENTATIVES KOOYENGA, KNUDSON, LOUDENBECK, SCHRAA, CZAJA; C. TAYLOR*, HINTZ.

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).



The role of the Joint Committee on Finance is central to Wisconsin's budget process. Assembly cochairperson John Nygren confers with Senator Jon Erpenbach during deliberations on the 2015 budget bill. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Agency Responsibility: The Joint Committee on Finance examines all legislation that deals with state income and spending. It also gives final approval to a wide variety of state payments and assessments. Any bill introduced in the legislature that appropriates money, provides for revenue, or relates to taxation must be referred to the joint committee.

The joint committee introduces the biennial budget as recommended by the governor. After holding a series of public hearings and executive sessions, it submits its own version of the budget as a substitute amendment to the governor's budget bill for consideration by the legislature.

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

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

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 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, ROTH, CARPENTER, VINEHOUT; REPRESENTATIVES PETRYK, LOUDENBECK; 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.

Joint LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Members: SENATOR COWLES, REPRESENTATIVE KERKMAN, *cochairpersons*; SENATOR DARLING, REPRESENTATIVE NYGREN (joint finance committee *cochairpersons*); SENATORS LAZICH; VINEHOUT*, BEWLEY; REPRESENTATIVES MACCO; SARGENT*, BERCEAU.

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

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

E-mail: sen.cowles@legis.wisconsin.gov; rep.kerkman@legis.wisconsin.gov

Statutory Reference: Section 13.53.

Agency Responsibility: The Joint Legislative Audit Committee, which was created by Chapter 224, Laws of 1975, advises the Legislative Audit Bureau, subject to general supervision of the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization. Its members include the *cochairpersons* of the Joint Committee on Finance, plus 2 majority and 2 minority party members from each house of the legislature. The committee evaluates candidates for the office of state auditor and makes recommendations to the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization, which selects the auditor.

The committee may direct the state auditor to undertake specific audits and review requests for special audits from individual legislators or standing committees, but no legislator or standing committee may interfere with the auditor in the conduct of an audit.

The committee reviews each report of the Legislative Audit Bureau and then confers with the state auditor, other legislative committees, and the audited agencies on the report's findings. It may propose corrective action and direct that followup reports be submitted to it.

The committee may hold hearings on audit reports, ask the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization to investigate any matter within the scope of the audit, and request investigation of any matter relative to the fiscal and performance responsibilities of a state agency. If an audit report cites financial deficiencies, the head of the agency must report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee on remedial actions taken. Should the agency head fail to report, the committee may refer the matter to the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization and the appropriate standing committees.

When the committee determines that legislative action is needed, it may refer the necessary information to the legislature or a standing committee. It can also request information from a committee on action taken or seek advice of a standing committee on program portions of an audit. The committee may introduce legislation to address issues covered in audit reports.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Members: SENATOR LAZICH (senate president), REPRESENTATIVE BALLWEG (designated by assembly speaker), *cochairpersons*; SENATORS GUDEX (president pro tempore), FITZGERALD (majority leader), SHILLING (minority leader), DARLING (*cochairperson*, Joint Committee on Finance), L. TAYLOR (ranking minority member, Joint Committee on Finance), MOULTON, PETROWSKI, WANGGAARD, RISSER, MILLER; REPRESENTATIVES VOS (assembly speaker), AUGUST (speaker pro tempore), STEINEKE (majority leader), BARCA (minority leader), NYGREN (*cochairperson*, Joint Committee on Finance), C. TAYLOR (ranking minority member, Joint Committee on Finance), MURTHA, KNODL, MASON, SHANKLAND. (Members designated by title serve *ex officio*.)

Director of Legislative Council Staff: TERRY C. ANDERSON, terry.anderson@legis.wisconsin.gov



Representative Jessie Rodriguez presides over a session of the Committee on Children and Families. The chairperson is flanked by the committee clerk and a member of the Joint Legislative Council Staff. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Deputy Director: JESSICA KARLS-RUPLINGER, jessica.karls-ruplinger@legis.wisconsin.gov

Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse: SCOTT GROSZ, *director*, scott.grosz@legis.wisconsin.gov; MARGIT KELLEY, *assistant director*, margit.kelley@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.lc.legis.wisconsin.gov>

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 2013-15: \$8,005,300.

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, and individual legislators. After research, expert testimony, 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 and 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



Senator Sheila Harsdorf of River Falls addresses the Senate. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

the functions of the retirement research director to the council staff, making the staff responsible for supporting the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems and the legislature regarding legislation involving the Wisconsin Retirement System.

PERMANENT STATUTORY COMMITTEES

Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations

Members: REPRESENTATIVE MURSAU, *chairperson*; SENATOR VINEHOUT, *vice chairperson*; SENATOR BEWLEY; REPRESENTATIVE MILROY; RUSSELL BARBER (Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin), DEE ANN ALLEN (Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians), BRYAN BAINBRIDGE (Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians), AIMEE AWONOHOPAY (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), WALLACE A. MILLER (Stockbridge-Munsee 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 2015

Study Committee on Adoption Disruption and Dissolution

Members: REPRESENTATIVE KLEEFISCH, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON, *vice chairperson*; SENATOR HARRIS DODD; REPRESENTATIVES JACQUE, KESSLER, TITTL; SAM BENEDICT, ORIANA CAREY, JILL LIST, MARY OSGOOD, RAY PRZYBELSKI, THERESA ROETTER, MARK SANDERS, JACLYN SKALNIK, HEATHER YAEGER.

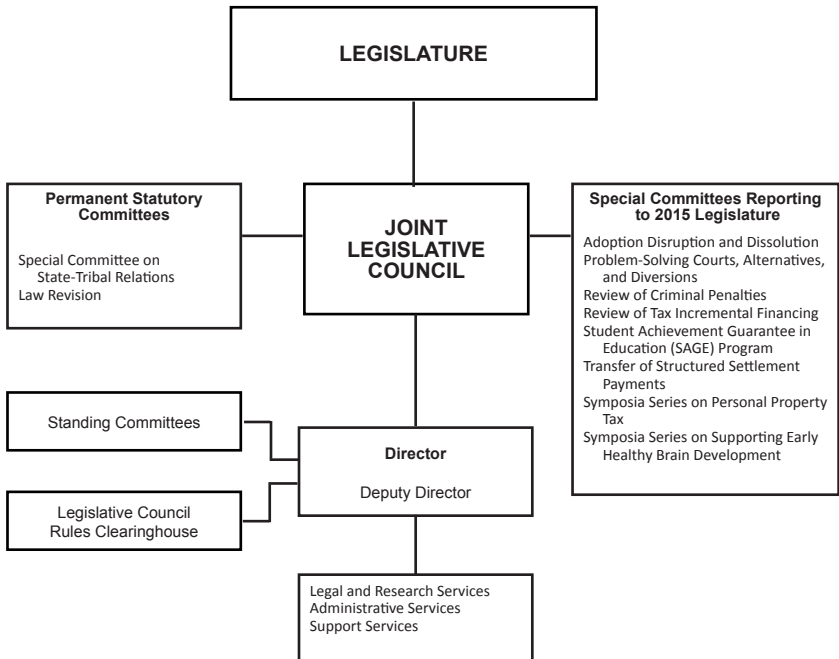
The study committee shall study the extent of adoption disruption and dissolution in Wisconsin and the efforts in Wisconsin to prevent it. The committee shall consider legislative options such as preventing disruptions and dissolutions and meeting the needs of adoptive children and parents if this occurs. The committee shall also consider options for tracking the number of and reasons for such adoption issues.

Study Committee on Problem-Solving Courts, Alternatives, and Diversions

Members: REPRESENTATIVE BIES, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE GOYKE, *vice chairperson*; SENATOR WIRCH; REPRESENTATIVES KOOYENGA, PETRYK, TAYLOR; CAROL CARLSON, TROY CROSS, TONY GIBART, MATTHEW JOSKI, JANE KLEKAMP, ELLIOTT LEVINE, JOANN STEPHENS, KELLI THOMPSON, MARY TRIGGIANO, MICHAEL WAUPOOSE.

The study committee is directed to review the more than 50 courts currently in operation in Wisconsin that utilize nontraditional adjudication methods, the effect they have on recidivism, and the net fiscal impact of these courts. The committee shall examine courts, such as veterans courts, drug and alcohol courts, mental health courts, and drunk driving courts, in Wisconsin and nationally and consider: a) effectiveness of existing problem-solving courts in Wisconsin in reducing recidivism, the costs to administer these courts, and the savings realized; b) best practices of existing problem-solving courts, both in Wisconsin and elsewhere, and potential

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL





Representative Sondy Pope speaks to Representative Jim Steineke, Majority Leader for the 2015 session. (Greg Anderson, Legislative Photographer)

implementation of these practices at the state level; c) efforts to establish problem-solving courts that serve multiple counties, impediments to these efforts, and potential changes to improve regionalization of such courts; and d) appropriate role and structure of state-level training and coordination.

Study Committee on the Review of Criminal Penalties

Members: REPRESENTATIVE HUTTON, *chairperson*; SENATOR RISSER, *vice chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVES BARNES, NEYLON, RIEMER, SPIROS; EDWARD BAILEY, KEITH BELZER, ADAM GEROL, SCOTT HORNE, JILL KAROFKY, BEN KEMPINEN, DAVID REDDY, MICHAEL TOBIN, DONALD ZUIDMULDER.

The study committee is directed to review the penalties for misdemeanor and low-level felony offenses. The committee shall: determine whether current misdemeanor or low-level felony penalties are appropriate; whether any crimes should be classified; and whether any offenses are outdated or should be decriminalized.

Study Committee on Review of Tax Incremental Financing

Members: SENATOR GUDEX, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE LOUDENBECK, *vice chairperson*; SENATOR JAUCH; REPRESENTATIVES KUGLITSCH, OHNSTAD, ZEPNICK; JENNIFER ANDREWS, MICHAEL HARRIGAN, EILEEN KELLEY, JOHN KOVARI, RICHARD LINCOLN, DAVID RASMUSSEN, BRIAN RUECHEL, JASON SERCK, MIKE SLAVISH, PETER THILLMAN, THOMAS WILSON, HAL WORTMAN.

The study committee is directed to study and review the intent behind tax incremental financing (TIF) laws and how TIF laws are utilized by cities, villages, towns, and counties. The committee shall also evaluate current TIF laws and recommend legislation that could improve their effectiveness and study how they impact a local governmental unit's finances and property taxes, economic and community development, and job growth.

Study Committee on the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) Program

Members: SENATOR OLSEN, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE CZAJA, *vice chairperson*; SENATOR HANSEN; REPRESENTATIVES BILLINGS, POPE, THIESFELDT; JOHN GAIER, BETH GRAUE, N. DAVID KIPP, RANDY NELSON, MIGUEL SANCHEZ, ANNE SMITH, ROBERT WAY, ANGELA WIEMER.

The study committee is directed to study the SAGE program; whether there are alternatives to current class size limitations that would allow schools to achieve the aims of SAGE; and whether the Department of Public Instruction should be authorized to waive the class size limitations in a school that implements alternative interventions, or to otherwise provide funds and assistance for alternatives to class size limitations.

Study Committee on Transfer of Structured Settlement Payments

Members: REPRESENTATIVE J. OTT, *chairperson*; REPRESENTATIVE WACHS, *vice chairperson*; SENATOR TAYLOR; REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAA; BRUCE BACHHUBER, MICHAEL FITZPATRICK, CATHERINE LA FLEUR, BENJAMIN MALSCH, ELIZABETH NEVITT, GERALD PTACEK.

The study committee shall be directed to do the following: a) review the current method by which structured settlement payments are transferred in Wisconsin; b) examine statutes regulating the practice in other states and under federal law; and c) recommend a statute for adoption in Wisconsin that governs transfers of structured settlement payments. The committee shall consider items such as standards for disclosure of information to structured settlement recipients by entities seeking to purchase future settlement payments, the ability of parents and guardians to enter into structured settlements on behalf of minor children, and guidelines for use by judges in approving the transfer of structured settlement agreements.

Steering Committee Symposia Series on Personal Property Tax

Members: SENATOR STROEBEL, *chairperson*; SENATOR TIFFANY, *vice chairperson*; SENATORS CARPENTER, HARSDORF, SHILLING; REPRESENTATIVES BARNES, KAHL, KULP, SANFELIPPO.



The Speaker serves as the assembly's preeminent constitutional officer in a body with 99 diverse constituencies. The Assembly has elected Robin J. Vos to that role for the second consecutive session. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

The steering committee is directed to conduct information symposia and develop recommendations regarding the state's personal property tax. The steering committee shall study the fiscal effect of the personal property tax and personal property tax exemptions, the constitutional concerns that may arise in the context of personal property tax reform, and the administrative and compliance costs associated with personal property taxation; and shall develop recommendations, in the form of a committee report, for personal property tax reform.

Steering Committee for Symposia Series on Supporting Early Healthy Brain Development

Members: REPRESENTATIVE BALLWEG, *chairperson*; SENATOR DARLING, *vice chairperson*; SENATORS LASSA, MILLER, OLSEN; REPRESENTATIVES BERCEAU, BORN, GENRICH, RODRIGUEZ, WRIGHT.

The steering committee is directed to conduct information symposia regarding: a) research on the impact of early brain development on lifetime physical and mental health, educational achievement, and economic security and the factors that hinder or promote healthy early brain development; b) policy initiatives implemented in other states that are intended to positively influence early brain development; and c) relevant programs and initiatives currently in place in Wisconsin. The steering committee shall also develop policy recommendations designed to improve the early brain development of Wisconsin's infants and young children.

Joint Committee on LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION

Members: SENATOR LAZICH (senate president), REPRESENTATIVE VOS (assembly speaker), *cochairpersons*; SENATORS FITZGERALD (majority leader), SHILLING (minority leader), FARROW (assistant majority leader), HANSEN (assistant minority leader); REPRESENTATIVES STEINEKE (majority leader), BARCA (minority leader), KNODL (assistant majority leader), SHANKLAND (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 LASEE, REPRESENTATIVE MURPHY, *cochairpersons*; SENATORS MARKLEIN; ERPENBACH; REPRESENTATIVES KUGLITSCH; MASON; 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: vacancy.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.47.

Agency Responsibility: Members of the Joint Legislative State Supported Programs Study and Advisory Committee visit and inspect the state capitol and all institutions and office buildings owned or leased by the state. They are granted free and full access to all parts of the buildings, the surrounding grounds, and all persons associated with the buildings. The committee may also examine any institution, program, or organization that receives direct or indirect state financial support.



Inauguration Day is usually marked by some ceremony. Justice Annette Ziegler addressed the Senate before administering the oath of office to the senators from odd-numbered districts on January 5, 2015. (Greg Anderson, Legislative Photographer)

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 LEMAHIEU, REPRESENTATIVE AUGUST, *cochairpersons*; SENATORS TIFFANY, CARPENTER*; REPRESENTATIVES SWEARINGEN, HESSELBEIN*; RICHARD G. CHANDLER (secretary of revenue); PAUL CONNELL (Department of Justice representative appointed by attorney general); KIMBERLY SHAUL (public member appointed by governor).

Mailing Address: Legislative Council Staff, P.O. Box 2536, Madison 53701-2536.

Telephone: 266-1304.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.52.

Agency Responsibility: The Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions, created by Chapter 153, Laws of 1963, considers all legislation related to the exemption of persons or property from state or local taxes. It is assisted by the Legislative Council Staff.

Any legislative proposal that affects tax exemptions must be referred to the committee immediately upon introduction. Budget bills containing tax exemptions are referred simultaneously to the joint survey committee and the Joint Committee on Finance. The joint survey committee must report within 60 days on the tax exemptions contained within a budget bill. Neither house of the legislature may consider tax exemption proposals until the joint survey committee has issued its report, attached as an appendix to the bill, describing the proposal's legality, desirability as public policy, and fiscal effect. In the course of its review, the committee is authorized to conduct investigations, hold hearings, and subpoena witnesses.

Organization: The 9-member committee includes representation from each house of the legislature with 2 members from the majority party and one from the minority party. The public member must be familiar with the tax problems of local government. Members' terms expire on January 15 of odd-numbered years.

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS COMMISSION

Members: GOVERNOR WALKER, *chairperson*; SENATORS COWLES, MARKLEIN, PETROWSKI; CARPENTER, HANSEN; REPRESENTATIVES RIPP, SPIROS, 3 vacancies; JEAN M. JACOBSON, BARBARA FLEISNER LAMUE, MICHAEL RYAN (citizen members appointed by governor). Nonvoting member: MARK GOTTLIEB (secretary of transportation).

Commission Secretary: KRIS SOMMERS, kristen.sommers@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: 266-3341.

Fax: 267-0294.



Representative Dan Knodl, Assembly Assistant Majority Leader, confers with his colleague Chris Kapenga during a session of the Assembly Committee on Labor. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

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*; AARON GARY (designated by chief, Legislative Reference Bureau), *secretary*; SENATOR RISSER; REPRESENTATIVE RIEMER, JUSTICE DAVID PROSSER, JR.; MARGIT KELLEY (designated by 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: 261-6926.

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 Uniform Law Commission, 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: ANNE SAPPENFIELD, anne.sappenfield@

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

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

Audit Directors: 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.

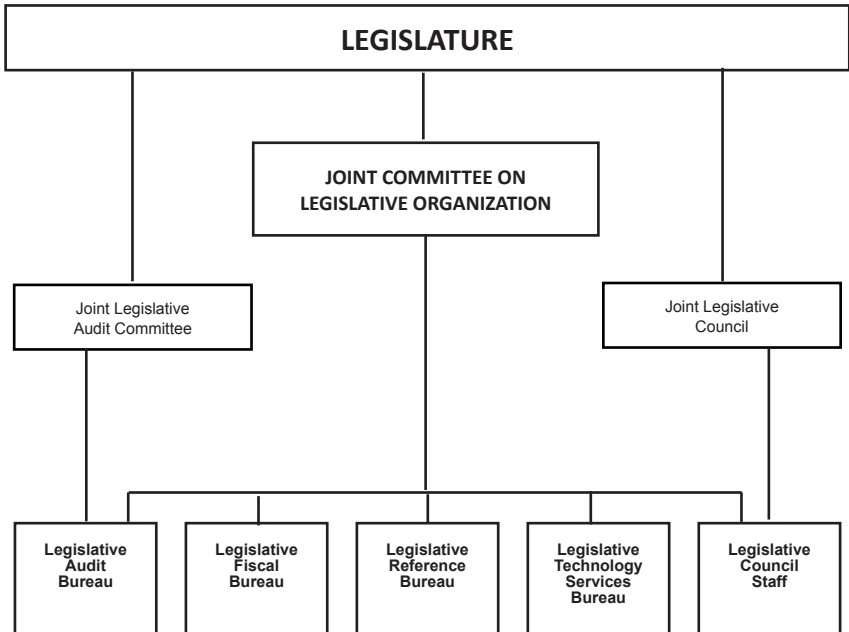
Number of Employees: 86.80.

Total Budget 2013-15: \$16,574,400.

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

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AGENCIES





Representative Peter W. Barca of Kenosha is serving his third consecutive session as Assembly Minority Leader. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

transactions legally and properly. It undertakes program audits to analyze whether agencies have managed their programs efficiently and effectively and have carried out the policies prescribed by law.

The bureau's authority extends to executive, legislative, and judicial agencies; authorities created by the legislature; special districts; and certain service providers that receive state funds. The bureau may audit any county, city, village, town, or school district at the request of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

The bureau 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.

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. 272-275



Representatives Melissa Sargent, Samantha Kerkman, and Amanda Stuck wore red to a February floor session in recognition of "Go Red Heart Association" Day. (Greg Anderson, Legislative Photographer)

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL BUREAU

Director: ROBERT WM. LANG.

Assistant Director: DAVID LOPPNOW.

Program Supervisors: FRED AMMERMAN, JERE BAUER, DARYL HINZ, 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.wisconsin.gov/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 2013-15: \$7,901,600.

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 and General Counsel: RICHARD A. CHAMPAGNE.

Deputy Chief and Chief Operating Officer: CATHLENE M. HANAMAN.

Legal Services Manager: JOE KREYE.

Library Manager: JULIE POHLMAN.

Administrative Services Manager: WENDY L. JACKSON.

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

Location: 1 East Main Street, Suite 200, Madison.

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 Statutes and Annotations; Laws of Wisconsin; Wisconsin Administrative Code and Register; *Wisconsin Blue Book*; various sections of the *Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Wisconsin Legislature*; informational and research reports.

Number of Employees: 60.00.

Total Budget 2013-15: \$12,514,800.

Statutory Reference: Section 13.92.

Agency Responsibility: The Legislative Reference Bureau provides nonpartisan, confidential bill drafting and other legal services to the Wisconsin Legislature. The bureau employs a staff of attorneys and editors who serve the legislature and its members and who draft and prepare all legislation, including the executive budget bill, for introduction in the legislature. Bureau attorneys also draft legislation at the request of state agencies. The bureau publishes all laws enacted during each biennial legislative session and incorporates the laws into the Wisconsin Statutes. The bureau prints the Wisconsin Statutes and Annotations every two years and updates continuously the Wisconsin Statutes on its Internet site. The bureau publishes and updates the Wisconsin Administrative Code and the Wisconsin Administrative Register.

The Legislative Reference Bureau employs research analysts and librarians who provide information and research services to the legislature and the public. The bureau publishes the *Wisconsin Blue Book* and many informational and research reports. The bureau responds to inquiries from the public, elected officers, and legislative staff on current law and pending legislation and the operations of the legislature and state government. The bureau operates a legislative library that contains an extensive collection of materials pertaining to Wisconsin. The library staff prepare the Index to the *Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Wisconsin Legislature*. The bureau maintains for public inspection the drafting records of all legislation introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature, beginning with the 1927 session.

Organization: The Joint Committee on Legislative Organization is the policy-making body for the Legislative Reference Bureau, and it selects the bureau chief. The chief employs all bureau staff. The chief and the bureau staff serve outside the classified service.

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

LEGISLATIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES BUREAU

Director: JEFF YLVIKSAKER.

Business Manager: ERIN ESSER.

Enterprise Operations Manager: MATT HARNED.

Geographic Information Systems Manager: TONY VAN DER WIELEN.

Software Development Manager: DOUG DEMUTH.



Senator Tim Carpenter, one of the longest serving state legislators, engages in floor debate. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Technical Support Manager: NATE ROHAN.

Mailing Address: 17 West Main Street, Suite 200, Madison 53703.

Telephone: 264-8582.

Internet Address: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/ltsb>

Number of Employees: 43.00.

Total Budget 2013-15: \$8,466,100.

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. LTSB creates, maintains, and enhances specialized software used for bill drafting, floor session activity, committee activity, managing constituent interactions, 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, desktops, laptops, printers, and other technology devices. It keeps an inventory of computer hardware and software assets and manages technology replacement schedules. It supports the redistricting project following each decennial U.S. Census and provides mapping services throughout the decade. LTSB also supports the legislature during floor sessions, delivers audio and video services, manages the technology for the Wisconsin Legislature's Internet Web sites, and offers training services for legislators and staff in the use of information technology.

Organization: The director is appointed by the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization, and has overall management responsibilities for the bureau. 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.



A member's maiden speech is always a notable event in the Wisconsin Assembly. Representative Adam Jarchow of Balsam Lake addressed the body for the first time on January 22, 2015. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION ENACTED BY THE 2013 LEGISLATURE

This section highlights significant legislation enacted by the 2013 Wisconsin Legislature in the biennial session that began January 7, 2011, and concluded January 5, 2013. The legislation is categorized by subject matter and in cases when an act affects more than one area of state law, such as 2013 Wisconsin Act 20 (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				
	2005-06	2007-08	2009-10	2011-12	2013-14
Bills Introduced	1,971	1,581	1,723	1,400	1,641
Assembly Bills	1,232	988	997	786	935
Senate Bills	739	593	726	614	706
Acts	491	242	406	286	380
Percentage of Bills Enacted	24.9%	15.3%	23.6%	20.4%	23.2%
Bills Totally Vetoed	47	1	5	0	1
Bills Partially Vetoed	2	4	6	3	4

SIGNIFICANT 2013-2014 LEGISLATION

Administrative Law

Act 125 (AB-595) exempts an administrative rule that is repealed or modified by an act of the legislature from statutory rule-making procedures.

Act 172 (AB-568) clarifies the effective dates of administrative rules and the notice requirements that apply to certain administrative rules.

Beverages

Act 65 (AB-61) allows an alcohol beverages retailer to bring a civil action, for \$1,000 plus costs, against an underage person or his or her parent for an underage violation on the retailer's premises. The act also allows an underage person to be on the retailer's premises, and to order, possess, or consume alcohol beverages, if he or she is assisting law enforcement in investigating and enforcing underage violations.

Act 106 (AB-169) creates an exception to the alcohol beverages laws that allows beer consumption on a commercial quadricycle, unless an ordinance negates the exception. A commercial quadricycle is a four-wheeled vehicle with at least 12 passenger seats that is powered by pedaling passengers. The act also imposes certain operating restrictions on commercial quadricycles.

Act 268 (SB-250) allows a fair association holding a temporary retail license to conduct a beer or wine judging or tasting event, involving servings of no more than one ounce, without a licensed bartender present to supervise.

Buildings and Safety

Act 270 (SB-617) makes the following changes to the laws relating to the construction and alteration of public buildings and buildings that are places of employment:

- With specified exemptions, prohibits a municipality from enacting an ordinance that establishes building standards unless the ordinance strictly conforms to construction standards in the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPA) rules.
- Creates a building code council that reviews and makes recommendations for rules relating to construction and alteration of such buildings.

Business and Consumer Law

Act 41 (AB-181) requires the Department of Administration (DOA) to establish and administer a venture capital investment program. The secretary of administration must establish a committee consisting of members from the Investment Board and the Capital Finance Office in DOA. The

committee must select an investment manager, who, subject to certain restrictions, must invest the following amounts in at least four different venture capital funds: \$25,000,000 contributed by DOA; at least \$300,000 of the investment manager's own moneys; and at least \$5,000,000 that the investment manager raises from nonstate sources. Each of the venture capital funds must invest those moneys in Wisconsin businesses and, among other requirements, must at least match its investment with moneys the venture capital fund has raised from other sources. The investment manager must ensure that, on average, a venture capital fund invests at least \$2 from other funding sources for every \$1 invested as required under the program. The investment manager must pay to the state its proceeds from investments of the moneys DOA contributed. If the investment manager pays the state \$25,000,000 in proceeds, then the investment manager must pay to the state 90 percent of its future proceeds from such investments.

Act 232 (*AB-368*) allows a person to obtain a rifle or shotgun from any state, instead of from a contiguous state as allowed under former law.

Act 234 (*SB-155*) makes changes to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) regulation of telephone solicitors, including prohibiting certain solicitations to residences with Wisconsin telephone numbers that are included in the national do-not-call list. Former law prohibited solicitations to residences with telephone numbers on DATCP's state do-not-call list, which the act eliminates.

Children

Act 314 (*AB-581*) relating to the unauthorized placement of children does the following:

- Prohibits advertising related to the adoption or other permanent physical placement of a child by any computerized communication system, including electronic mail, an Internet site, or a social media account. Former law prohibited adoption advertising only by means of print media, radio, or television.
- Eliminates an exception to the prohibition on adoption advertising that allowed a parent to advertise for the adoption of his or her own child.
- Allows a parent who has legal custody of a child to delegate for longer than one year the parent's powers regarding the care and custody of the child to a relative or, if approved by the juvenile court, a nonrelative. Former law allowed such a delegation only for up to one year.
- Prohibits the permanent interstate placement of a child with a nonrelative, unless that placement is authorized by law or approved by a court.

Constitutional Amendments

Enrolled Joint Resolution 1 (*AJR-2*) proposed by the 2013 legislature on second consideration, requires the legislature to create a department of transportation and a transportation fund. All state funds from transportation-related revenues will be placed in the fund and used only for planning, promotion, and protection of the state's transportation systems. The amendment was ratified by the voters at the November 2014 general election.

Enrolled Joint Resolution 16 (*SJR-57*) proposed by the 2013 legislature on first consideration, would require the supreme court to elect a chief justice for a term of two years. Currently, the justice with the longest continuous service is automatically chief justice. To become part of the constitution, the amendment must be concurred in by the 2015 legislature and ratified by the voters.

Crime

Act 79 (*SB-40*) allows a law enforcement officer to search the person, residence, or property of a person who is on parole, extended supervision, or probation for a felony or certain misdemeanors if the officer has reasonable suspicion that the person is committing, is about to commit, or has committed a crime or a violation of a condition of his or her release or probation.

Act 254 (*AB-274*) eliminates immunity for family members from being charged with the crime of harboring or aiding a felon and increases the penalty for that crime based on the seriousness of the felon's crime.

Act 317 (AB-556) allows for a visual strip search of a person who is arrested or otherwise lawfully detained in a jail or prison if the person will be held for at least 12 hours and will be housed with another person.

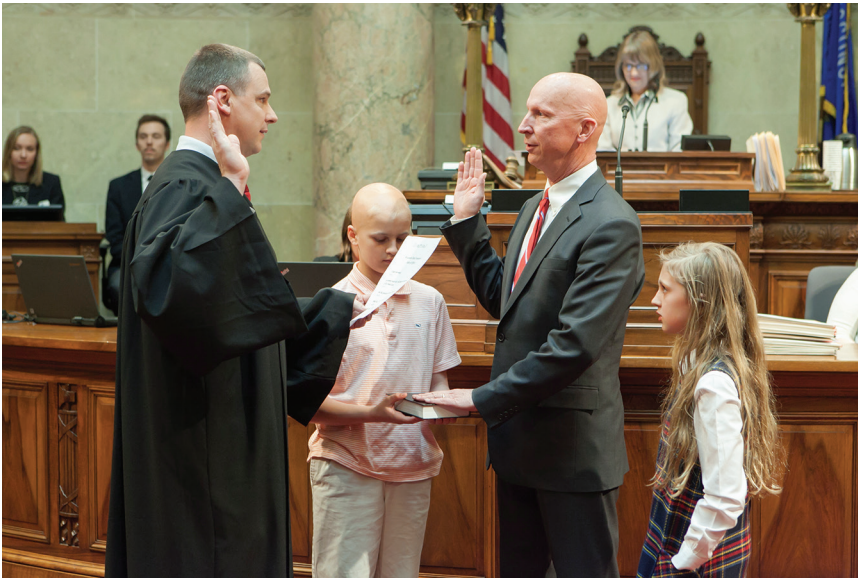
Act 323 (SB-160) requires each law enforcement agency to have a policy that requires a law enforcement officer who has reasonable grounds to believe that a person is committing domestic abuse to provide to the victim information regarding shelters, services, and his or her legal rights, and a statement of how to file a petition for an injunction. The act also requires that, in the annual report regarding domestic abuse arrests that each district attorney must submit to the Department of Justice (DOJ), the district attorney include the number of responses that law enforcement made that involved a domestic abuse incident that did not result in an arrest.

Act 348 (AB-409) requires each law enforcement agency to have a written policy regarding the investigation of deaths that involve a law enforcement officer that the agency employs. The policy must require at least two investigators from other agencies to investigate the death, and the investigators must provide a complete report to the district attorney.

Act 362 (AB-620) makes the following changes to human trafficking laws:

- Eliminates the element that the victim has not consented to be trafficked.
- Creates a process for a victim of human trafficking to request a court to vacate a conviction, adjudication, or finding of not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect for the crime of prostitution if the person committed the crime as a result of being a victim of trafficking.
- Allows, in a prosecution alleging human trafficking or certain other offenses, evidence of other crimes, wrongs, or acts to be admitted.

Act 375 (AB-536) generally prohibits law enforcement from identifying or tracking the location of a wireless or mobile device without a warrant.



Accompanied by his two children, Duey Stroebel took the oath of office in April 2015, to fill a vacancy in the 20th Senate District. The oath was administered by Court of Appeals Judge Mark Gundrum, a former member of the Wisconsin Assembly. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Education

Higher Education

Act 56 (AB-201) gives University of Wisconsin (UW) and Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) students who are veterans or members of the U.S. armed forces priority in registering for courses.

Act 60 (SB-334) creates a technical excellence higher education scholarship program, administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB), to award scholarships, based on proficiency in technical subjects, to selected high school seniors who enroll in technical colleges.

Act 128 (AB-454) creates a grant program, administered by HEAB, to provide tax-exempt financial assistance to primary care physicians and psychiatrists who practice in underserved areas in this state.

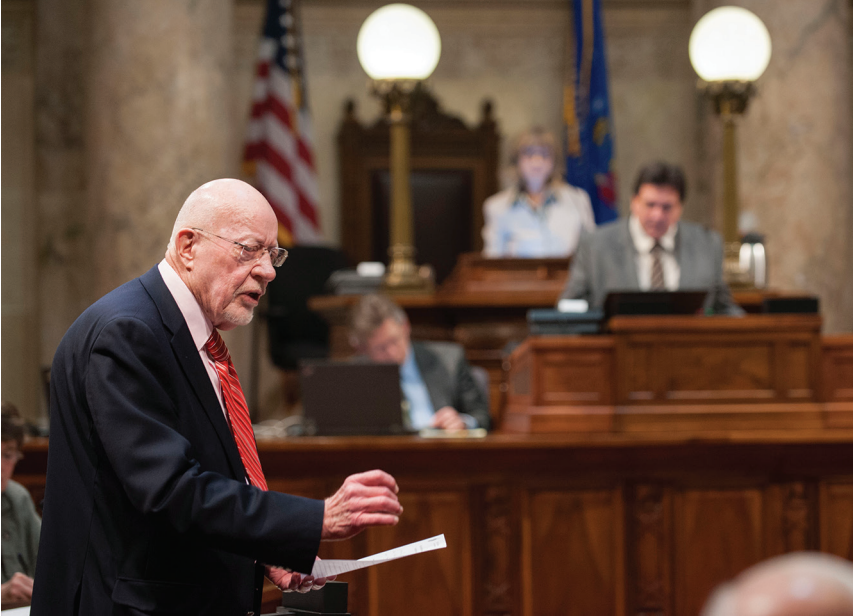
Act 145 (January 2014 Special Session SB-1) provides property tax relief aid to WTCS districts, distributed annually to each district on the basis of its equalized value as compared to the equalized value of all districts. The act eliminates the current limit on a district's tax levy and imposes, instead, a revenue limit. With certain exceptions, the act provides that a district's revenue (consisting of the sum of its tax levy and the amount of property tax relief aid it receives) may not exceed its revenue in the previous school year increased by the district's valuation factor, which is the percentage change in the district's equalized value due to new construction, less improvements removed.

Act 208 (SB-223) generally prohibits an institution of higher education, technical college, or proprietary school from requesting or requiring a current or prospective student to grant access to his or her personal social media account.

Act 289 (AB-729) allows the Board of Regents to accept research contracts involving government security classifications or similar restrictions if the research furthers national security interests. Also, the chancellors must consult with faculty to establish conditions for accepting the contracts and conducting the research at their institutions.



High turnover in recent years has resulted in an Assembly with only 15 of 99 members who have at least 10 years of legislative experience. Representative Joan Ballweg, in her 6th term, offers an experienced voice. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)



Senator Fred Risser, the longest-serving state legislator in United States history, lends his voice to the Senate debate in 2015. (Greg Anderson, Legislative Photographer)

Primary and Secondary Education

Act 20 (AB-40) makes the following changes to parental choice programs (PCPs):

- Creates an expanded, statewide PCP under which pupils who reside in a school district other than the Milwaukee Public School District or the Racine Unified School District may attend a private school participating in a PCP with financial assistance from the state. The program is substantially similar to the Racine Parental Choice Program (RPCP) under preexisting law with several exceptions. Only 500 pupils may participate in the 2013-14 school year and only 1,000 pupils in every school year thereafter. If the pupil cap is reached in the 2013-14 school year, the 25 schools that received the most applications may participate. These 25 private schools receive priority to participate in subsequent school years, with any additional pupils assigned to those schools that received the most applications. There is no pupil cap and no restriction on the number of schools that may participate in the RPCP. Only pupils with a family income that does not exceed 1.85 times the federal poverty level may participate in the expanded program; under the RPCP, the family income threshold for pupil participation is three times the federal poverty level.
- Allows a private school participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) or the RPCP to give preference in accepting certain pupils rather than selecting the pupils randomly as under preexisting law.
- Allows a private school participating in a PCP to submit to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) a letter indicating that the municipality where the school is located does not issue certificates of occupancy.
- Modifies current law to require DPI to include a portion of the fair market value of a participating private school's buildings as facilities costs when determining the private school's costs of educational programming. These educational



Floor debate is the one point in the legislative process when a legislator can try to persuade all her colleagues at once. Representative Amy Loudenbeck addressed the Assembly in February 2015. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

programming costs are used to determine the payment by the state to the private school for each pupil attending the school under a PCP.

- Allows a private school participating in a PCP to accumulate a portion of its annual educational programming costs in a reserve account and requires DPI to include that portion in determining the private school's costs of educational programming.
- Requires a private school participating in a PCP to maintain an approved accreditation and annually notify DPI of its accreditation status. The act authorizes DPI to bar from a PCP a private school that has failed to maintain accreditation.
- Requires DPI, when releasing certain information related to pupils participating in a PCP, to release all of the data at the same time.
- Allows a person who has obtained a degree higher than a high school diploma in lieu of a high school diploma to be employed as a teacher's aide in a private school participating in a PCP.
- Increases the per pupil payment amount for pupils in PCPs and sets a higher amount for grades 9 to 12 than for grades kindergarten to 8.

Act 20 also requires DPI annually to publish a school and school district accountability report on a school's performance or a school district's improvement. Subject to certain deadlines, the report must include independent charter schools and private schools participating in a PCP.

Act 20 additionally requires the state superintendent to adopt exams to measure pupil knowledge and concepts in grades 9 and 11, in addition to grades 4, 8, and 10 as under former law.

Act 20 prohibited DPI from adopting any additional common core standard until the Joint Legislative Council had studied the standard, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau had reviewed the fiscal impacts, and the findings of the study had been presented to the public. The act required DPI to adopt new academic standards by July 1, 2014.

Act 63 (SB-51) increases the number of mathematics credits and science credits a pupil must complete in order to obtain a high school diploma from two credits in each subject to three credits.

Act 115 (AB-297) makes various changes to the process by which a school district resident may object to a school district's use of a race-based nickname, logo, mascot, or team name, including requiring a petition to include a minimum amount of signatures that is equal to 10 percent of the school district's membership; reversing the burden of proof for demonstrating that a race-based nickname, logo, mascot, or team name promotes discrimination, pupil harassment, or stereotyping; and transferring hearings on such objections from DPI to the Division of Hearings and Appeals. The act also prohibits the enforcement of any order issued under former law to terminate a school board's use of a race-based nickname, logo, mascot, or team name.

Act 208 (SB-223) generally prohibits a public, charter, or private school or a private educational testing service from requesting or requiring a current or prospective student to grant access to his or her personal social media account.

Elections

Act 146 (SB-324) modifies the procedure for receiving absentee ballot applications made in person so that applications may not be received on a legal holiday and may otherwise be received only from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. each day. The act also provides that the municipal clerk must witness the certificate for any in-person absentee ballot cast.

Act 153 (SB-655) makes various changes to the campaign finance and lobbying laws, including eliminating the limit on expenditures made to solicit contributions, allowing a registrant to file reports electronically, increasing registration thresholds, and extending the time during which a lobbyist may make a campaign contribution. The act also specifies types of Internet activity that are subject to and excluded from disclosure requirements and contribution limitations. In addition, the act allows certain individuals and organizations to redirect certain campaign contributions made to the individual or organization but unclaimed for two years if the individual or organization has attempted to contact the contributor or has received authorization from the surviving spouse or estate of the contributor. Contributions may be redirected to the administrative fund of the individual or organization or to a committee associated with the individual or organization. The individual or organization must identify the associated committee on its registration statement and report any redirected contribution.

Act 159 (AB-396) requires the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners of each municipality to send two special voting deputies to each community-based residential facility, adult family home, and residential care apartment complex located in the municipality if the facility, home, or complex has at least five registered electors as occupants. Under former law, the decision to send deputies to those facilities, homes, or complexes was discretionary. The act requires the deputies to conduct absentee voting in person for those occupants who wish to vote.

Act 160 (AB-420) provides that a signature on a nomination paper is not valid unless the signer legibly prints his or her name next to his or her signature.

Act 177 (AB-202) requires the chief inspector at a polling place and the municipal clerk at a location where absentee voting takes place to designate areas for members of the public to observe electors participating in the voting process.

Employment

Unemployment Insurance

Act 11 (AB-15) allows employers to establish work-share programs pursuant to a federal law and provides certain federal funding for the programs and unemployment insurance (UI) benefits paid under the programs. Under a work-share program, employees in a work unit have their hours reduced in lieu of layoffs, receive partial UI benefits based upon the amount of the reduction, and are exempt from the UI law's work-search requirements.

Act 20 (AB-40) makes the following changes to the UI law:

- Changes UI benefit suspension and requalification requirements for claimants who are discharged for serious misconduct, and creates less stringent requirements for claimants who are discharged for certain absenteeism or

tardiness. The act codifies court interpretations of the term “misconduct”; identifies specific acts, including certain absenteeism or tardiness, that constitute misconduct; and creates requalification requirements for claimants who are discharged for substantial fault that are less stringent than for discharge for misconduct.

- Eliminates provisions that allowed an individual who voluntarily terminated his or her employment to receive UI benefits without satisfying statutory requalification requirements. The act also modifies those requalification requirements for certain individuals.
- Modifies work-search requirements to increase the number of actions that most claimants must take to maintain UI benefit eligibility, and to allow the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to require, as a condition of eligibility, that claimants provide certain employment-related information and job application materials, participate in reemployment service programs, and work with DWD to find suitable reemployment.
- Changes UI contribution (tax) rates for employers to require employers with an unfavorable layoff experience to pay higher contribution rates on their payrolls.
- Appropriates up to \$30,000,000 from state general tax revenues to pay interest due to the federal government during the 2013-15 fiscal biennium on federal loans to maintain the solvency of this state’s unemployment reserve fund, thereby eliminating the liability of employers to cover the cost of this interest.

Other Employment

Act 20 (AB-40) makes the following changes to the laws relating to public employment and fringe benefits for public employees:

- Increases from 30 to 75 days the break-in-service requirement for participants in the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) who return to covered employment after retirement.
- Provides that a WRS annuitant who returns to covered employment or contracts with a covered employer for employment services must terminate his or her annuity if the annuitant is expected to work at least two-thirds time. The act also creates a process for suspending an annuity for an annuitant who returns to covered employment.
- Requires the Group Insurance Board (GIB), beginning on January 1, 2015, to allow state employees to receive health care coverage through a high-deductible plan and a health savings account.
- Prohibits the state from paying for state employee health insurance premiums more than 88 percent of the average premium costs of plans offered in each tier. There are currently three tiers of health insurance plans, which are based on premium costs. Under former law, the state could not pay more than 88 percent of the average premium costs of plans offered in the lowest-cost tier.

Act 123 (SB-224) makes various changes relating to the state civil service system. The act provides that:

- The administrator of the Division of Merit Recruitment and Selection in the Office of State Employment Relations may waive a residency requirement for a limited term appointment. Former law allowed the administrator to do so only if the employee’s permanent work site was located outside this state.
- A state employee who has not obtained permanent status in class in a supervisory or management position may be required to serve a probationary period if he or she is appointed to another such position.
- Annual, termination, and accumulated sabbatical leave, as well as paid holiday leave, are subject to the state compensation plan. Under former law, for represented employees, such leave was established in collective bargaining agreements.
- Career executive employees and other management employees receive all

continuous service leave if they terminate those positions and are subsequently reemployed in similar positions, regardless of the duration of their leaves of absence.

- Permanent classified state employees who take leave without pay for military training are credited, upon reemployment, for annual leave, sick leave, and legal holidays as if they had remained continuously employed by the state.

Act 208 (*SB-223*) generally prohibits an employer from requesting or requiring a current or prospective employee to grant access to his or her personal social media account.

Environment

Act 1 (*SB-1*) establishes laws that apply to iron mining, which differ procedurally and substantively from laws that formerly applied to all mining for metallic minerals and that continue to apply to mining for other metallic minerals, such as copper and zinc.

The act generally requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to approve or deny the application for an iron mining permit, and any other permit needed to conduct the mining, within 14 months after the applicant files the application, unless the applicant specifies a longer deadline in the application. Under the act, before DNR acts on an application for an iron mining permit, it must hold a public informational hearing, but not a contested case hearing, on the application. If an aggrieved person requests a contested case hearing after DNR acts on a permit application, the act requires the hearing examiner to issue a final decision within five months after DNR acts.

The act establishes regulations related to all of the following that are different for activities related to iron mining than for other regulated activities: effects on wetlands, effects on navigable waters, effects on groundwater quality, withdrawals of groundwater and surface water, and disposal of waste. Under the act, iron mining is not subject to the mining moratorium law that prohibits DNR from issuing a permit to mine in a sulfide ore body that has the potential to produce acid drainage unless the applicant demonstrates that a mine that operated in such an ore body has been closed for at least 10 years without producing acid drainage. Also under the act, a person is no longer required to obtain a permit for prospecting for iron ore.

Act 378 (*SB-547*) provides a statewide variance to limits on the amount of phosphorus



Representative Andy Jorgensen of Milton presents an argument on the Assembly floor. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)



Speaker Vos confers with Representatives Jeremy Thiesfeldt and Mary Czaja on the Assembly floor. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

discharged into a stream or lake with high levels of phosphorus. Under the act, businesses and municipalities whose wastewater treatment systems would need new treatment equipment and processes to comply with the limits may receive the variance if DOA determines that compliance would cause widespread adverse social and economic impacts and the federal Environmental Protection Agency approves the variance. A recipient of the variance must comply with specified requirements for reducing phosphorus pollution.

Health and Social Services

Act 37 (SB-206) makes various changes to abortion laws, including:

- Except in a medical emergency and except where the pregnancy is the result of a sexual assault, requiring that, among other things, before a person may perform or induce an abortion, the physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or any physician requested by the pregnant woman must perform, or arrange for a qualified person to perform, an ultrasound on the pregnant woman using whatever transducer the woman chooses. The act prohibits a person from requiring a pregnant woman to view the ultrasound images or to visualize any fetal heartbeat and prohibits any person from being subjected to a penalty if the pregnant woman declines to view the ultrasound images or to visualize any fetal heartbeat.
- Prohibiting a physician from performing an abortion unless the physician has admitting privileges in a hospital within 30 miles of the location where the abortion is to be performed.

Act 200 (AB-446) adopts a number of provisions regarding drugs known as opioid antagonists, including: 1) allowing trained certified first responders to administer opioid antagonists; 2) requiring that the Department of Health Services (DHS) permit all trained emergency medical technicians to administer opioid antagonists to individuals believed to be undergoing opioid-related drug overdoses; and 3) allowing law enforcement agencies and fire departments to obtain supplies of opioid antagonists and to be trained to administer them.

Mental Health

Act 129 (AB-455) requires DHS to contract with a peer-run organization to establish peer-run respite centers for individuals experiencing mental health conditions or substance abuse.

Act 130 (AB-458) requires DHS, in providing Medical Assistance (MA) benefits, to allow in-home therapy for a severely emotionally disturbed child without a showing of a failure to succeed in outpatient therapy and to allow qualifying families to participate in in-home therapy even if a child is enrolled in a day treatment program. The act also allows mental health services provided through telehealth to be reimbursed by the MA program if the provider of the service through telehealth satisfies certain criteria.

Act 131 (AB-459) requires DHS to create five regional centers for individual placement and support for employment of individuals experiencing mental illness. The act requires DHS to award grants to counties or trial unit program or employment sites that are implementing individual placement and support services or regional centers for certain activities. The act also requires DHS and the regional centers to provide work incentive benefits counseling for individuals who are not receiving vocational rehabilitation services from DWD.

Act 132 (AB-460) requires DHS to award grants to counties or regions comprised of multiple counties to establish certified crisis programs that create mental health mobile crisis teams in rural areas.

Justice

Act 20 (AB-40) requires, beginning on April 1, 2015, that law enforcement agencies must collect a biological specimen from each individual who is arrested for allegedly committing a felony and from each juvenile who is taken into custody for allegedly committing a violation that would be a felony if committed by an adult. Law enforcement agencies must submit the biological specimens to the State Crime Laboratories at DOJ for DNA analysis and inclusion in the DNA data bank for individuals 1) who are arrested or taken into custody under a warrant; 2) for whom a court finds probable cause that the individual committed the offense; or 3) who fail to appear at an initial appearance, preliminary examination, or delinquency proceeding. If a law enforcement agency is not required to submit a biological specimen within a year of collecting it, the law enforcement agency must destroy the specimen. Also beginning on April 1, 2015, the act requires that when an individual who is charged with a felony, or with a juvenile offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult, makes his or her initial appearance before a court, the individual must submit a biological specimen for DNA analysis and inclusion in the DNA data bank if a specimen was not previously submitted. Also beginning on April 1, 2015, the act requires the following individuals to submit a biological specimen to DOJ for DNA analysis and inclusion in the DNA data bank:

- A juvenile who is adjudicated delinquent, or found not responsible by reason of mental disease or defect, for a violation that would be a felony if committed by an adult or for certain sex offenses or endangering safety by use of a dangerous weapon.
- An individual who has been found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect of a felony or of certain sex offenses or endangering safety by use of a dangerous weapon.
- An individual who is sentenced or placed on probation for any felony or misdemeanor conviction. Finally, the act provides a process by which individuals may seek expungement of their DNA profile from the DNA data bank.

Local Law

Act 14 (AB-85) changes the compensation structure for a Milwaukee County supervisor, reduces the term length of a Milwaukee County supervisor, affects the right of an annuitant under the Milwaukee County Employee's Retirement System to be rehired by Milwaukee County, limits the authority of Milwaukee County to enter into certain intergovernmental agreements, removes and clarifies some authority of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, and increases and clarifies the authority of the Milwaukee County executive.

Act 274 (SB-517) does the following:

- Provides that, in certain cases, if a residential tenant has unpaid municipal utility

charges, the municipality has a lien on the tenant's assets, which the municipality may transfer to the tenant's landlord.

- Allows a landlord to request that a municipal utility disconnect electric service to a residential unit if the tenant has unpaid municipal utility charges.
- Changes various requirements regarding utility service by a municipality to certain residential tenants.

Natural Resources

Act 61 (*AB-194*) makes various changes to the law regulating hunting, including:

- Eliminating the age and disability requirements under former law that allowed a person to hunt with a crossbow under certain other hunting licenses.
- Establishing new resident and nonresident crossbow hunting licenses.
- Providing that, if DNR establishes an open season for hunting certain animals, including deer, with a bow and arrow, DNR must establish an open season for hunting that animal with a crossbow.
- Requiring DNR to specify by rule the open seasons during which certain deer hunting permits are valid and the types of weapons that may be used under those permits.
- Specifying that, if DNR requires a person who kills an animal to register the animal with DNR, DNR must record the type of weapon used to kill the animal.

Real Estate

Act 208 (*SB-223*) generally prohibits a landlord from requesting or requiring a current or prospective tenant to grant access to his or her personal social media account.

Taxation

Act 20 (*AB-40*) changes laws related to taxation as follows:

- Reduces the marginal tax rates for individuals in all tax brackets and reduces the number of brackets from five to four.
- Creates an individual income tax deduction for private elementary and high school tuition.
- Creates an individual income tax exemption for income received by an active duty U.S. armed forces member whose death results from service in a combat zone.
- Removes individual income tax check-offs that do not generate at least \$75,000 in a year from state income tax forms.
- Eliminates the estate tax for deaths occurring after December 31, 2012.

Transportation

Act 20 (*AB-40*) changes local assistance programs by:

- Creating a transportation alternatives program to replace the Department of Transportation's (DOT) programs for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transportation enhancement activities, safe routes to school, and traffic marking enhancements. Under the new program, DOT must award grants to local governments and other entities for transportation alternatives activities, including planning and construction of pedestrian and bicycle lanes and trails, as well as other safe routes for children and other nondrivers.
- Allowing DOT to pay counties and municipalities aids for damage caused by any disaster, not just floods as under former law, to highways or bridges not on the state trunk highway system. The act defines "disaster" to include sudden highway failure and damage caused by a response to a disaster event.

Act 31 (*SB-62*) specifies that a person may provide proof of motor vehicle liability insurance in electronic format, including on a cellular telephone.



Senator Paul Farrow (left) speaks to Senator Scott Fitzgerald, who was again elected Majority Leader by his colleagues for the 2015 session. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)

Act 101 (AB-200) makes changes to the laws governing repair, replacement, and refund under a motor vehicle warranty, commonly referred to as the lemon law, including: 1) extending the time for a manufacturer to provide a comparable new motor vehicle to a consumer who elects to receive one and, under certain circumstances, allowing the manufacturer to provide a refund instead of a comparable new motor vehicle; 2) specifying circumstances under which a vehicle's nonconformity has been subject to a reasonable attempt to repair; 3) requiring a consumer to use DOT forms and suspending certain deadlines if the consumer submits incomplete forms; 4) requiring that any civil action for damages be commenced within 36 months after vehicle delivery; and 5) eliminating a prevailing consumer's right to recover double damages.

Act 188 (AB-244) creates special vehicle registration plates displaying "In God We Trust," which DOT may issue upon receiving contributions to cover the estimated production costs. An additional payment for these plates funds the care of residents of Wisconsin veterans homes.

Act 350 (AB-124) makes changes to the inattentive driving law, including creating a form of inattentive driving under which a driver generally may not operate, or be in a position to directly observe, an activated electronic device providing visual entertainment.

Act 377 (SB-509) makes numerous changes relating to the operation of agricultural vehicles on highways, including: 1) modifying the definition of implement of husbandry (IOH) and recognizing a new type of vehicle called an agricultural commercial motor vehicle (AgCMV); 2) increasing, until January 1, 2020, the statutory weight limits for IOHs and AgCMVs operated without a permit; 3) creating certain weight limit exceptions for IOHs and AgCMVs until January 1, 2020; 4) creating a "no fee" permit system until January 1, 2020, that allows IOHs and AgCMVs to exceed the new statutory weight limits; 5) modifying statutory size limits for IOHs and AgCMVs; 6) creating lighting and marking requirements for wide IOHs; 7) allowing a wide IOH to be operated outside its lane and over the center line of a roadway; 8) exempting AgCMVs from vehicle registration; and 9) requiring farm equipment dealers to disclose vehicle weight when selling equipment operated on a highway.

MAJOR PROPOSALS THAT FAILED ENACTMENT OR ADOPTION

Business and Consumer Law

Assembly Bill 96 and *Senate Bill 97* would have prohibited certain unsolicited prerecorded telephone messages, including political robocalls.

Education

Assembly Bill 379 would have established a school and school district accountability system and provided sanctions for public, charter, and PCP schools that performed poorly.

Senate Bill 619 would have established a model academic standards board to develop standards in mathematics, English, science, and social studies.

Employment

Assembly Bill 667 and *Senate Bill 508* would have allowed employees to voluntarily work without one day of rest in seven.

Assembly Bill 711 and *Senate Bill 550* would have made various changes relating to worker's compensation, including establishing a maximum fee schedule for health services provided to an injured employee.

Assembly Bill 750 and *Senate Bill 626* would have preempted local living wage ordinances for employees whose work is funded by state or federal funds.

Environment

Assembly Bill 476 and *Senate Bill 349* would have reduced the authority of local governments to regulate nonmetallic mining, water quality, and air quality.

Local Law

Assembly Bill 816 and *Senate Bill 632* would have reduced local control over the ability to zone and otherwise regulate nonmetallic mining operations.



Representative Dale Kooyenga listens to testimony before the Joint Committee on Finance. (Jay Salvo, Legislative Photographer)