

# Politics blog: Lawmaker pushes for more scrutiny of legislative pay increases

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As the state moves to furlough workers and take back their raises, one lawmaker is pushing for more scrutiny of legislative pay increases.

Rep. Bob Ziegelbauer, D-Manitowoc, is seeking supporters for a draft bill that would require the full Legislature to vote on any pay increase for lawmakers, Gov. Jim Doyle and other state elected officials.

Currently, those raises must only be proposed by Gov. Jim Doyle's administration and then approved by a legislative committee.

Ziegelbauer is one of at least 15 lawmakers who have agreed to return a two-year, 5.3 percent pay raise to the state because of the state's budget problems.

Doyle announced this month that state workers would take 16 days without pay for the two years starting July 1.

The governor is also rescinding a 2 percent pay raise for about 9,500 non-union state employees scheduled to take effect next month, hoping to negotiate the elimination of a similar pay hike for union workers to avoid about 400 layoffs, and calling for cuts of up to 5 percent in state agencies that could lead to an additional 700 layoffs.

A number of other lawmakers, including Assembly Speaker Mike Sheridan, D-Janesville, Assembly Minority Leader Jeff Fitzgerald, R-Horicon, and Senate Majority Leader Russ Decker, D-Weston, have said they will also return 16 days of pay to the state.

Spokeswomen for Decker and Sheridan had no comment late Tuesday on Ziegelbauer's proposal.