



## Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services

2017-19 Executive Budget

### ***Elimination & Transfer of the Educational Approval Board to DSPS***

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#### **TALKING POINTS:**

- Commonsense government reform.
- Provides enhanced oversight for the authorization and review of private postsecondary educational institutions in Wisconsin.
- Current functions and responsibilities of the Educational Approval Board (EAB), including oversight of the existing Student Protection Fund, will remain intact, and will only be enhanced by the services that DSPS has the capability of providing.
- Both agencies have *similar missions*.
  - *DSPS*: To promote economic growth and stability while protecting Wisconsin's citizens.
  - *EAB*: To protect Wisconsin's consumers and support quality educational options.
- Both agencies perform *similar work functions*.
  - Both have experience in records management, continuing education, complaint investigations, and fee collections.
  - Both DSPS and the EAB review applications for credentials or certifications.
  - While the EAB only reviews and certifies predominantly for-profit colleges, DSPS provides credentials or certifications for a total of 233 professions.

#### **BY THE NUMBERS –**

##### **DSPS:**

- Over 25,000 new credential applications and 150,000 renewals received per year.
- Over 2,500 complaints received per year, resulting in approx. 1,400 opened investigations.
- Over 900 instructors and 46 schools licensed (includes educational establishments in the fields of cosmetology, barbering, manicuring, electrology, aesthetics and nursing).

##### **EAB:**

- 217 schools, serving approx. 47,000 students, approved by the EAB in 2017.
- 36 student complaints investigated and 33 student transcripts provided, on average per year, by the EAB for years 2015-16.
- More than 470 degree and non-degree programs offered annually by EAB-approved institutions.

- The breadth of what DSPS successfully reviews and renews highlights its existing capacity to: 1) Allow for a seamless transition of the EAB; and 2) Ensure that the EAB's current functions are carried over in a manner that is appropriate and which retains sufficient consumer protection.
- As a previous school administrator, DSPS Secretary-elect Laura Gutiérrez brings a focus on efficiency, accountability, and reform, which will aid the agency in assuming the duties of the EAB.
- The EAB's existing constituencies stand to benefit from DSPS' ability to work with a large range of professions and industries by utilizing central services (e.g., customer service call center, consumer protection, legal and financial services, and IT).
  - DSPS handles a wide variety of complaints involving legal services, with services ranging from misrepresentations to complex medical complaints, and will be able to deploy consumer protection investigators and legal assistance when appropriate.
  - In the unfortunate event of a closure by one of the types of schools currently regulated by the EAB, DSPS stands ready and is well-equipped to assist students with tuition recovery, safekeeping of records, and transfer of academic hours.