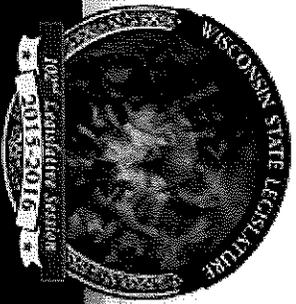


**Krause, Caroline**

**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2015 2:57 PM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 2.23.15 - Intro to JFC  
**Importance:** High



## Joint Committee on Finance Republican Update

February 23, 2015

### ***GOPweb***

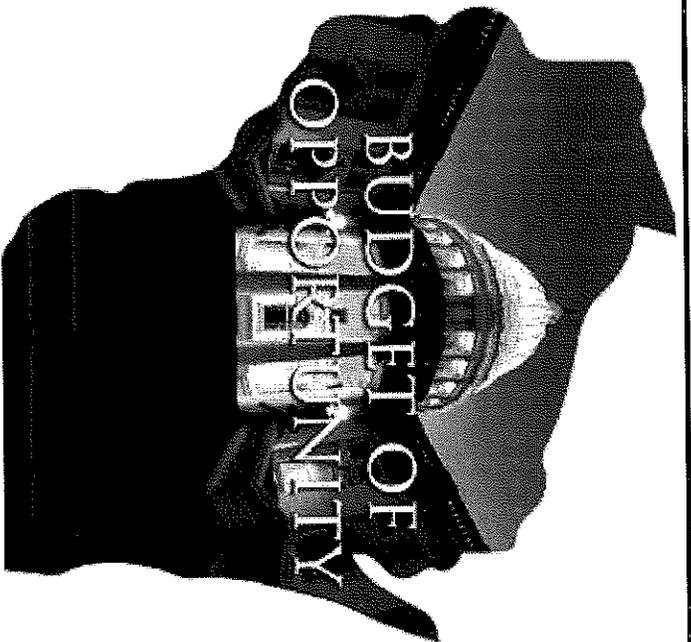
*Over the coming weeks, JFC E-updates, talking points, columns, messaging and whatever else comes up during the budget process will be posted on GOPweb. The material will be housed under Budget 2015-17.*

*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact*

### ***The Budget of Opportunity***

Over the next few months, our caucus has the unique opportunity to shape the state budget to fit the needs of our constituents throughout the state of Wisconsin. As we move forward with the budgeting process, we will approach this budget as the "Budget of Opportunity." Our reforms are working, and it's time to put our stamp on the 2015-17 budget and continue our state's forward progress.

*you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*



### *Budget Buddies*

As the legislature begins its deliberations on the 2015-17 State Budget, the Joint Committee on Finance will continue with its traditional "Budget Buddy" system. The goal of this system is to provide a constant and consistent dialogue with each member of our caucus as the budget moves through the process.

Each Assembly Republican JFC member has been designated to serve as the main point of contact for about ten of our caucus members, otherwise known as Budget Buddies. Your Buddy will be the primary contact for questions, concerns, feedback and drafting requested changes relating to the state budget. Every JFC member is strongly encouraged to have a collective meeting with all their buddies to check-in and update them on JFC matters weekly.

### **How Budget Buddies are Assigned:**

- All 6 Assembly GOP JFC members have issue areas they are in charge of
- Chairs of the committees that fall under the scope of that issue area will be assigned to that individual JFC member
- Allows for the ability to have JFC members to work directly with members who have a history and understanding of the issue

**Budget Motion Requests:**

This form should be filled out for each request. Please make sure the request is completed in its entirety.

**Important Information to Include:**

- Who is making the request?
- What is it?
- Why is it needed?
- What will it cost or save? If cost, what is your funding source?
- Note any known support and/or opposition.
- Additionally, please attach any valuable supplemental information such as bill drafts, talking points, etc., that may be helpful in further explaining your request.

We encourage each office to research and formulate budget motion requests. Time is of the essence -- the sooner the better.

***Budget Process Timeline***

We are now nearing the end of the four-week period between the introduction of the budget and the start of agency briefings. This time allows the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to analyze the bill and write its summary. This analysis is absolutely critical and invaluable in assisting our entire caucus in its tasks. Now is the time to begin familiarizing yourself with the issues by reading information papers, the Budget in Brief, and the 2015-17 State Executive Budget.

**Agency Briefings:**

Last week, the Notice of Budget Agency Briefings was sent out. These briefings will be

held in the JFC room (412 East) next week Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th). No public testimony will be taken at these briefings.

**Briefings Schedule at a Glance:**

*Monday, March 2 (1:00 p.m.)*

- Department of Administration
- Budget Overview
- DOA Budget Provisions (including Building Commission, Budget Management and Compensation Reserves, and Sports and Entertainment District)
- Department of Corrections
- Supreme Court
- Department of Justice

*Tuesday, March 3 (9:00 a.m.)*

- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Workforce Development
- University of Wisconsin System
- Department of Public Instruction
- Department of Health Services

*Wednesday, March 4 (9:00 a.m.)*

- Department of Transportation
- Department of Revenue (including Lottery and Shared Revenues)
- Department of Children and Families
- Department of Financial Institutions
- Department of Safety and Professional Services
- Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
- Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority

**Public Hearings (Tentative):**

After the agency briefings, JFC will go on the road to hold public hearings throughout the state. Typically, a number of regional locations are chosen to hold these hearings, as we look to hold hearings in the "four corners of the state" instead of Madison to maximize the level of public input. At this time, the public is invited to testify in favor of or against motions in the state budget.

\*JFC is currently looking to designate the last two weeks in March for public hearings. Specific dates and locations will be announced shortly.\*

**Executive Sessions:**

Following the public hearings, JFC will begin the executive sessions in Madison. This is when the members of Finance discuss and vote on each individual issue in the budget. It is our hope to finish this process by Memorial Day.

**Votes on the Assembly and Senate Floors:**

After the budget is passed out of JFC, the bill will be taken up as a whole on the floor of the Senate and Assembly.

\*The floor of the Assembly is traditionally not where we look to make substantive changes to the budget bill. If you have suggestions for changes to the budget, please submit the budget motion requests (above) to your Budget Buddy as soon as possible.\*

**The Governor:**

Once the budget bill has passed through both Houses, it will be delivered to Governor Walker for his signature. Keep in mind that the governor has the power of the line-item veto at this time.

Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

**Krause, Caroline**

**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2015 12:35 PM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 2.27.15 - LFB Papers & Briefing Update  
**Importance:** High



## Joint Committee on Finance Republican Update

February 27, 2015

### ***GOPweb***

*Over the coming weeks, JFC E-updates, talking points, columns, messaging and whatever else comes up during the budget process will be posted on*

*GOPweb. The material will be housed under Budget 2015-17.*

*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact*

### ***Legislative Fiscal Bureau Issue Papers Released***

This week, the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) delivered their compilation of state budget issue papers to offices in the legislature. This compilation is a summary of the governor's budget recommendations and includes fiscal papers on every individual item in the proposal. You can read the online version of the LFB's compilation [here](#).

If you haven't done so already, you can also familiarize yourself with budget issues by reading [information papers](#), the [Budget in Brief](#), and the [2015-17 State Executive Budget](#).

*you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

### *Agency Briefings Reminder*

**Agency Briefings:**

Last week, the Notice of Budget Agency Briefings was sent out. These briefings will be held in the JFC room (412 East) next week Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th). No public testimony will be taken at these briefings.

You will be able to watch each of the scheduled agency briefings next week live on Wisconsin Eye. Each live feed will be listed under "Joint Committee on Finance Budget Briefing."

**Briefings Schedule at a Glance:**

**Monday, March 2 (1:00 p.m.)**

- Department of Administration
- Budget Overview
- DOA Budget Provisions (including Building Commission, Budget Management and Compensation Reserves, and Sports and Entertainment District)
- Department of Corrections
- Supreme Court
- Department of Justice

**Tuesday, March 3 (9:00 a.m.)**

- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Workforce Development
- University of Wisconsin System
- Department of Public Instruction
- Department of Health Services

**Wednesday, March 4 (9:00 a.m.)**

- Department of Transportation
- Department of Revenue (including Lottery and Shared Revenues)
- Department of Children and Families
- Department of Financial Institutions
- Department of Safety and Professional Services

- Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
- Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority

### *Next Up in the Budget Process: Public Hearings*

Once JFC has completed the agency briefings, it will then begin the process of public hearings. During the last two weeks of March the committee will visit four communities outside of Madison, in the proverbial "four corners of the state," to gather information and input from Wisconsinites. Final arrangements are being made and we are anticipating those dates and locations later next week.

Additionally, in the coming weeks there will be a dedicated email address set up specifically for your constituents' budget concerns. This email address will go directly to finance members. Once this address is up and running, this information will be included in the JFC Republican Update. This will be a useful tool for your constituents to reach out directly to the finance committee via email during the public hearing process.

### *State Budget in the News*

#### **UW System:**

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - Ray Cross, UW Authority and Autonomy

#### **Family Care:**

WSAU - Statewide Expansion

#### **DNR:**

Racine Journal Times - State Parks

WMTV - Madison - Natural Resources Board

#### **Corrections:**

Fond du Lac Reporter - Tower Guard Positions

Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

**Krause, Caroline**

**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 8:26 PM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 3.2.15 - Agency Briefings Day 1  
**Importance:** High



# Joint Committee on Finance

## Republican Update

March 2, 2015

### *Next Up in the Budget Process: Public Hearings*

Once JFC has completed the agency briefings, it will then begin the process of **public hearings**. During the last two weeks of March the committee will visit four communities outside of Madison, in the proverbial "four corners of the state," to gather information and input from Wisconsinites. Final arrangements are being made and we are

### *Agency Briefings*

#### **Day 1 Recap - Monday, March 2nd**

- Department of Administration
- Department of Corrections
- Supreme Court
- Department of Justice

#### **DOA:**

Today, JFC members had the opportunity to ask former Department of Administration (DOA) Secretary Mike Huebsch questions about provisions in the proposed state budget. These provisions include the Building Commission, Budget Management and Compensation Reserves, and Sports and Entertainment District. The former secretary answered lawmakers' questions in addition to outlining Governor Walker's budget

anticipating those dates and locations later next week.

Additionally, in the coming weeks there will be a dedicated email address set up specifically for your constituents' budget concerns. This email address will go directly to finance members. Once this address is up and running, this information will be included in the JFC Republican Update. This will be a useful tool for your constituents to reach out directly to the finance committee via email during the public hearing process.

## **GOPweb**

JFC updates, columns, messaging and whatever else comes up during the budget process will be posted on [GOPweb](#). The material will be housed under Budget 2015-17.

It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.

priorities: property tax relief, economic growth, and improving Wisconsin's jobs climate.

This briefing marks the beginning of the Finance committee's budget process. Members of JFC shared concerns regarding education funding (both K-12 and UW System), transportation bonding, and the proposed new Milwaukee Bucks arena, among other issues.

Rep. Nygren and former Secretary Huebsch agreed that the level of bonding as a whole in this budget is the lowest it has been in more than a decade. That being said, the majority of bonding in this proposal is dedicated to the transportation portion of the budget, which, as Nygren noted, raises concerns among many lawmakers.

Former Secretary Huebsch did not submit written testimony.

### **DOC:**

Secretary Ed Wall spoke in front of JFC on behalf of the Department of Corrections. He described the governor's vision to enhance safety for citizens around Wisconsin.

Lawmakers questioned the secretary about a number of voluntary and pilot programs facilitated through DOC, including those related to substance abuse like the Vivitrol voluntary program. Members on the Finance committee also questioned budget provisions regarding the prison system, including tower guards, meals, and fencing.

Additionally, the secretary described issues with reversed seniority forced overtime for prison guards. DOC is currently in the process of rolling out a program that will rotate forced overtime at correctional institutions so new employees won't have to continually work consecutive overtime shifts.

Click [here](#) for Secretary Wall's testimony.

### **Supreme Court:**

Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson testified on behalf of the Supreme Court this afternoon. She stated that the courts provide a core state function, and as the judicial branch of government, they make up less than 1% of the state budget as a whole.

In her testimony, Justice Abrahamson describes budget provisions that were requested by the courts and included in the governor's proposal. Specifically, she spoke of a provision that states that the Director of State Courts is authorized to plan for budgeting over the full two-year cycle, instead of one year at a time. In addition, the governor's proposal includes the creation of a Judicial Compensation Commission, which will study judicial compensation and make recommendation to the Joint Committee on Employment Relations.

Justice Abrahamson also spoke about provisions that weren't specifically asked for by the courts, but that the courts are in favor of in concept. These provisions include changes to the funding structure for the circuit courts and increased funding flexibility. In her testimony, she outlined potential consequences to these changes, both positive and negative.

When questioned by members of the JFC as to whether or not the Chief Justice supported the governor's budget proposal, she answered without hesitation, "I support the basics...I support the governor's bill in concept, especially when it provides [the court] flexibilities" such as the block grant funding proposal.

[Click here for Chief Justice Abrahamson's testimony.](#)

**DOJ:**

Attorney General Brad Schimel spoke on behalf of the Department of Justice at today's briefings. He focused on the department's mission to ensure public safety. While the Attorney General stated that he believes the governor's recommendations are well-reasoned and fiscally prudent, he also stated that he understands the tight financial spot our state is in this budget cycle.

Important issues covered by AG Schimel include funding for district attorneys, State Justice Assistance Grants, and law enforcement officer-involved death investigations.

This budget, the governor plans to eliminate vacant positions at the department, create the Solicitor General's Office, and transfer the Office of State Prosecutors. The governor also recommends changes to the use of surcharge revenues in the criminal justice system.

Click [here](#) for Attorney General Schimel's testimony.

Watch a recording of today's agency briefings on Wisconsin Eye [here](#).

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### *Coming up this Week: Agency Briefings Cont.*

#### **Agency Briefings Day 2 - Tuesday, March 3rd**

- [Department of Natural Resources](#)
- [Department of Workforce Development](#)
- [University of Wisconsin System](#)
- [Department of Public Instruction](#)
- [Department of Health Services](#)

#### **Agency Briefings Day 3 - Wednesday, March 4th**

- [Department of Transportation](#)
  - [Department of Revenue](#)
  - [Department of Children and Families](#)
  - [Department of Financial Institutions](#)
  - [Department of Safety and Professional Services](#)
  - [Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation](#)
  - [Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority](#)
- 

### ***State Budget in the News***

#### **Agency Briefings (general):**

[Wisconsin Radio Network](#)

[NBC 15 - Madison](#)

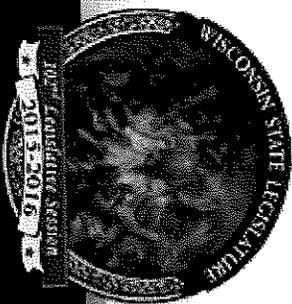
Joint Committee on Finance

"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson



Krause, Caroline

From: Rep.Nygren  
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 8:57 PM  
To: Rep.Nygren  
Subject: JFC Update 3.3.15 - Agency Briefings Day 2



# Joint Committee on Finance Republican Update

March 3, 2015

## Next Up in the Budget Process: Public Hearings

Once JFC has completed the agency briefings, it will then begin the process of **public hearings**. During the last two weeks of March the committee will visit four communities outside of Madison, in the proverbial "four corners of the state," to gather information and input from Wisconsinites. Final arrangements are being made and we are

## Agency Briefings

### Day 2 Recap - Tuesday, March 3rd

- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Workforce Development
- University of Wisconsin System
- Department of Public Instruction
- Department of Health Services

## DNR:

Today's agency briefings began this morning with Department of Natural Resources Secretary Cathy Stepp. The secretary emphasized that the governor's budget proposal provides the DNR with the tools necessary to continue protecting and enhancing the environment in our state, and she spoke about how important it is to enforce the law using sound science and common sense.

anticipating those dates and locations later next week.

Additionally, in the coming weeks there will be a dedicated email address set up specifically for your constituents' budget concerns.

This email address will go directly to finance members. Once this address is up and running, this information will be included in the JFC Republican Update. This will be a useful tool for your constituents to reach out directly to the finance committee via email during the public hearing process.

## **GOPweb**

JFC updates, columns, messaging and whatever else comes up during the budget process will be posted on [GOPweb](#). The material will be housed under Budget 2015-17.

It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.

Secretary Stepp focused on four key points: bringing private sector business practices to state government, growing Wisconsin's economy, investing in our infrastructure, and government reform. She spoke about the agency's commitment to accountability to the public, customer service, and eliminating instability and uncertainty of the past associated with DNR projects. Additionally, the secretary mentioned that she believes a strong economy is essential to maintaining environmental quality; therefore, she's committed to improving our state's economy as much as any other agency head here in our state.

Lawmakers expressed numerous concerns regarding proposed changes to stewardship, including the possible moratorium and the level of debt service Wisconsin pays for stewardship land. Secretary Stepp confirmed that 70 cents of every dollar of GPR the department receives from the state is currently going toward stewardship debt service. That is equal to paying \$1.6 million ever month -- or \$1000 every 5 minutes -- just to cover the debt on our previous purchases.

Additionally, a few Finance members took issue with the budget provision regarding the change of the Natural Resources Board to an advisory board. The secretary, however, assured these lawmakers that the department would continue to take this board's recommendations into careful consideration, regardless of the board's level of policy-making power. She said that the board sometimes can act as a further layer of bureaucracy in that they have to review and vote to approve administrative rule changes several times during the process.

Click [here](#) for Secretary Stepp's testimony.

### **DWD:**

Secretary Reggie Newson of the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) began his testimony today by stating his support for the governor's budget proposal. He described how his goal as DWD secretary aligns with Governor Walker's agenda to develop Wisconsin's workforce and grow our economy.

The secretary commented on the importance of worker development programs, like the Wisconsin Fast Forward worker training program. In the governor's proposal, there is continued funding allocated to this program, as well as others, to continue benefiting our developing workforce. Additionally, the secretary praised the governor's proposal to



Next, President Cross broached the subject of the proposed \$300 million cut for the System. While he said that the proposed cut is serious, he emphasized his willingness to partner with the Legislature to make sound decisions on behalf of our state's public universities and for the benefit of Wisconsin students. He did, however, finally embrace the proposed flexibilities given to the system in the budget and said that these tools along with other System cost-cutting measures, would be aggressively implemented to help deal with the potential cuts.

After President Cross' testimony, Chancellor Jim Schmidt of UW-Eau Claire outlined the concerns smaller UW campuses harbor in terms of the proposed cut, as the smaller institutions may be more affected by a cut than the larger campuses in our state.

Lawmakers on the Finance committee shared their sentiments regarding student debt, students' ability to graduate in 4 years, and class sizes -- concerns shared by all who attend, have attended, or plan to attend a UW college.

[Click here](#) for President Cross' testimony.

**DPI:**

State Superintendent Tony Evers appeared in front of the Finance committee this afternoon, and he began by describing his concerns regarding the governor's budget proposal as it affects public education. He claimed that he was before the JFC today with the same mindset he had in 2011, and that the governor's proposal, if signed into law as is, would have a negative affect on Wisconsin's public educational system.

Last budget, the JFC voted to increase funding for public schools from what was originally proposed in the governor's 2013-15 budget. Mr. Evers acknowledged this increase, and thanked the committee for their work. On that same note, Evers went on to ask that the committee have the same sentiments in mind when considering the current budget proposal.

After addressing his concerns with public school funding, the superintendent spoke about his support for school accountability. With that said, Mr. Evers stated that he doesn't agree with the governor's vision for this accountability.

After Superintendent Evers' testimony, lawmakers asked questions about school funding distribution and funding distribution fairness. Rep. Nygren referenced how

some public schools can afford to build expensive locker rooms for their athletes while other schools have trouble paying to keep the lights on.

Additionally, members asked the superintendent about the governor's alternative teaching licensure provision, school accountability as it relates to local control, and the charter school statewide expansion.

Click [here](#) for Superintendent Evers' testimony.

**DHS:**

Secretary Kitty Rhoades was last to testify in front of the JFC at the agency briefings this evening. She voiced her agreement with the governor's budget proposal, stating that "this budget is based on economic growth and opportunity for the citizens of Wisconsin."

The secretary covered five of the department's main goals this biennium: continue the governor's entitlement reforms, expand the Family Care program statewide, promote effective service delivery models, promote independence and self-sufficiency, and reform government.

Lawmakers voiced concerns about the elimination of the IRIS program. In response to these concerns, Secretary Rhoades assured members that DHS has a strong commitment to self-directed care. She discredited claims that self-directed care is going away with the governor's proposal. Specifically, the secretary assured members that DHS will maintain self-directed care within the managed health care system of Family Care.

The governor's proposed changes to Family Care paired with the program's geographical expansion prompted the secretary to begin referring to the program as "Family Care 2.0."

Secretary Rhoades stated many times that this budget focuses on efficiencies, effectiveness, and accountability. Most important to DHS is the continued improvement of "the delivery of care with the focus on the health outcomes of the total person" and to provide Wisconsin residents with the necessary resources to be independent and move into the workforce.

Click [here](#) for Secretary Rhoades' testimony.

Watch a recording of today's agency briefings on Wisconsin Eye [here](#).

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*Coming up this Week: Agency Briefings Cont.*

**Agency Briefings Day 3 - Wednesday, March 4th**

- [Department of Transportation](#)
  - [Department of Revenue](#)
  - [Department of Children and Families](#)
  - [Department of Financial Institutions](#)
  - [Department of Safety and Professional Services](#)
  - [Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation](#)
  - [Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority](#)
- 

***State Budget in the News***

**Agency Briefings (general):**

[Fond du Lac Reporter](#)

[Wisconsin Radio Network](#)

[NBC 15 - Madison](#)

**UW System:**

[Maelver Institute - UW Shush Fund](#)

[US News & World Report - Sexual Assault Reporting Requirements](#)

[Fox 11 - Green Bay - Ray Cross on Proposed UW System Cuts](#)

**DNR:**

[Appleton Post Crescent - Moratorium, Board Powers, etc.](#)

**DOA:**

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - Division of Personnel Management](#)

**Supreme Court:**

Star Tribune - State Judicial Commission

**DOJ:**

Star Tribune - Officer-Related Deaths

**DCF:**

Racine Journal Times - Child Support

**Forward Wisconsin Development Authority:**

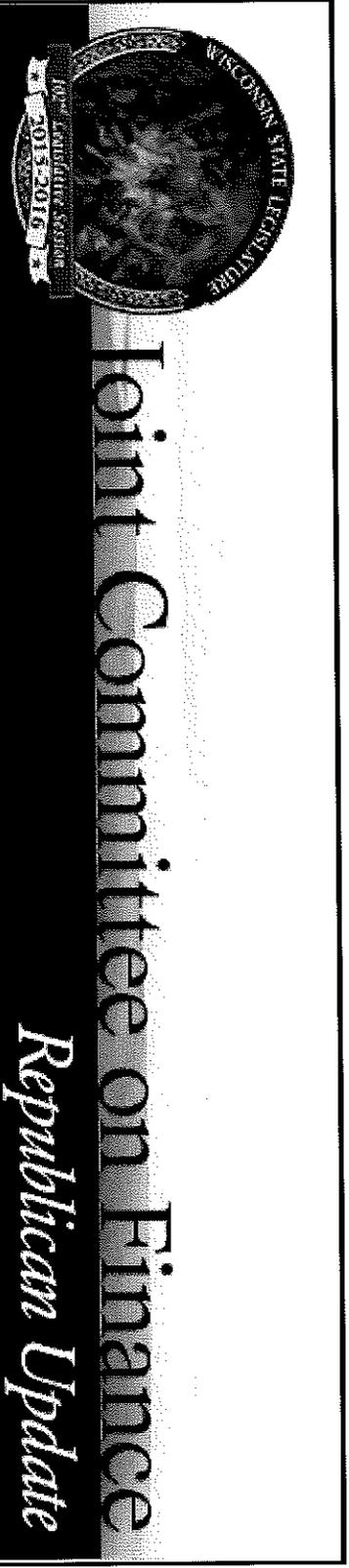
Racine Journal Times - WEDC/WHEDA Merger

**Joint Committee on Finance**

“I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.” Thomas Jefferson

**Krause, Caroline**

**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:53 PM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 3.4.15 - Agency Briefings Day 3  
**Importance:** High



March 4, 2015

## ***GOPweb***

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## ***Agency Briefings***

### **Agency Briefings Day 3 - Wednesday, March 4th**

- Department of Transportation
- Department of Revenue
- Department of Children and Families
- Department of Financial Institutions
- Department of Safety and Professional Services
- Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
- Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority

### **DOT:**

The Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Mark Gottlieb was the first to appear in front of the JFC this morning for agency briefings. He began by emphasizing

what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.

the importance of Wisconsin's infrastructure, and said that agriculture and tourism -- two of Wisconsin's most important revenue sources -- depend on a safe and efficient multi-modal transportation system. The secretary went on to outline the department's proposed budget as it relates to investments to infrastructure, aids to local governments, department operations, revenues, and bonding.

Secretary Gottlieb highlighted a number of large transportation projects that will continue into the future, including the Milwaukee Zoo Interchange, the St. Croix River Crossing, and the Hoan Bridge project. Additionally, the secretary stated that funds will be allocated to repair and maintain existing infrastructure through the State Highway Rehabilitation Program.

The majority of today's discussion revolved around the high level of bonding for transportation as proposed in the governor's budget. Lawmakers expressed concerns with continued borrowing, and members agreed that transportation funding should not be continually passed along to future legislatures.

With over 3 hours of briefing with the DOT, members made it clear that they were looking for other ways to provide the department with funding other than bonding. All options are on the table, and the JFC will investigate possible alternatives to bonding as the budget process continues.

[Click here](#) for Secretary Gottlieb's testimony.

**DOR:**

Secretary Rick Chandler of the Department of Revenue (DOR) presented an overview of the governor's budget proposal. He described the department's six key issues: property tax relief, tax simplification, property assessment reform, audit initiatives, anti-fraud efforts, and the Unclaimed Property Program.

The secretary lauded Governor Walker's commitment to tax relief. He emphasized the work done by the governor and legislature in past budgets to ensure that we hold the line on property taxes in Wisconsin. Moreover, the secretary and Rep. Kooyenga engaged in informational dialogue about the importance of simplifying our state's tax code.

A few members voiced concerns about tax breaks for the wealthy; however, Secretary Chandler assured these members that our tax bracket system is fair. He, along with Rep. Nygren, reiterated that middle class Wisconsinites benefited most from the tax relief in the last budget.

[Click here](#) for Secretary Chandler's testimony.

**DCF:**

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) Secretary Eloise Anderson came before the JFC this afternoon to offer testimony. She spoke about the governor's vision for the department and how it relates to the budget proposal. The secretary emphasized the importance of the American Dream and what the department's role is in helping to make this dream attainable for all Wisconsinites.

Secretary Anderson stated that the governor's budget proposal aligns with the department's goals to ensure that people have the means to learn important skills that lead to gainful employment, improve children's access to quality early childhood education, and help to guarantee that our most vulnerable friends and neighbors are safe and cared for.

Transitional jobs programs like Wisconsin Works were discussed before the JFC. Secretary Anderson explained how these programs benefit those who may have trouble finding family-sustaining employment due to various reasons. Additionally, a provision to require able-bodied non-custodial parents who are screened-in as drug users to take drug tests is included in the governor's proposal. This provision was contentious among the Democratic members of the committee; however, the secretary spoke in favor of the proposal and stated that this provision would help accessibility to treatment and benefit whole families.

Members also had questions about early child care programs like YoungStar. After outlining the premise of this program, the secretary reiterated the importance of increasing impoverished children's access to quality care and education.

[Click here](#) for Secretary Anderson's testimony.

**DFI and DSPS:**

The Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) Secretary Ray Allen and the Department

of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) Secretary Dave Ross appeared before the JFC together, as the governor's proposal includes a provision to consolidate these two agencies into one: the Department of Financial Institutions and Professional Standards.

Both secretaries touted the idea of the "one stop shop" for Wisconsin businesses. They stated that this merger would be an effective and efficient way to streamline government and reduce spending. One of the governor's main goals with this proposal is to reduce the overall size of government, which is supported by both DFI and DSPS.

Lawmakers expressed concerns about the effectiveness of the proposed agency merger. In response, Secretary Allen specified during the briefing that a merger of DFI and DSPS would not have an impact on DFI's regulation and oversight of Wisconsin's financial institutions. Similarly, Secretary Ross explained that the agency merger that created DSPS four years ago was a great success, and he anticipates that the proposed merger in the 2015-17 budget would have beneficial effects in Wisconsin as well.

[Click here](#) for Secretary Allen's testimony.

[Click here](#) for Secretary Ross' testimony.

**WEDC and WHEDA:**

Reed Hall, the CEO of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) appeared before the JFC with Executive Director Wyman Winston of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), as the governor included a merger of these two authorities in his proposed budget.

Both Mr. Hall and Mr. Winston explained that WEDC and WHEDA currently work together on many economic efforts in our state. It is for this reason that the proposed merger would help to streamline these economic efforts by making them more effective and efficient.

Like the secretaries of DFI and DSPS, the leaders at WEDC and WHEDA spoke in favor of the "one stop shop" for economic development, as both authorities work to package resources to grow business statewide. Mr. Hall specified that this merger will "establish a more responsive, coordinated, and accountable entity that has the ability to

deliver a vast array of housing and economic development tools for businesses and communities around the state."

Click [here](#) for Executive Director Winston's testimony.

Click [here](#) for CEO Hall's testimony.

Watch a recording of today's agency briefings on [Wisconsin Eye here](#).

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### ***This Week in Review: Agency Briefings***

After over 27 hours in the JFC room, the committee has completed three full days of agency briefings. The following is a recap of days one and two:

#### **Agency Briefings Day 1 - Monday, March 2nd**

- [Department of Administration](#)
  - [Department of Corrections](#)
  - [Supreme Court](#)
  - [Department of Justice](#)
- Review the JFC Update of day 1 [here](#).

#### **Agency Briefings Day 2 0 Tuesday, March 3rd**

- [Department of Natural Resources](#)
  - [Department of Workforce Development](#)
  - [University of Wisconsin System](#)
  - [Department of Public Instruction](#)
  - [Department of Health Services](#)
- Review the JFC Update of day 2 [here](#).

Watch recordings of all of this week's agency briefings on [Wisconsin Eye here](#).

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***Next Up in the Budget Process: Public Hearings***

Now that the JFC has completed the agency briefings, it will begin the process of public hearings. These will be held in the proverbial "four corners of the state" during the last two weeks of March. The goal of these hearings is to gather information and input from Wisconsinites across the state.

The JFC public hearings schedule is as follows:

**Wednesday, March 18th**

Brillion High School  
Brillion, Wisconsin  
10am - 5pm

**Friday, March 20th**

Alverno College  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
10am - 5pm

**Monday, March 23rd**

UW-Barron County  
Rice Lake, Wisconsin  
10am - 5pm

**Thursday, March 26th**

Reedsburg High School  
Reedsburg, Wisconsin  
9:30am - 4pm

If your constituents live close to one of the locations listed above and have opinions regarding the proposed state budget, they are encouraged to attend one of the public hearings and voice their thoughts in front of the JFC.

In the coming weeks there will be a dedicated email address set up specifically for your constituents' budget concerns. This email address will send messages directly to finance members. Once this address is up and running, this information will be included in the JFC Republican Update. This will be a useful tool for your constituents if they have

opinions regarding the proposed state budget but don't live close to any of the public hearing locations listed above.

***State Budget in the News***

**Agency Briefings (general):**  
NBC 15 - Madison

**UW System:**  
Maclver Institute - UW Slush Fund  
US News & World Report - Sexual Assault Reporting Requirements  
Fox 11 - Green Bay - Ray Cross on Proposed UW System Cuts

**DNR:**  
Appleton Post Crescent - Moratorium, Board Powers, etc.

**DWVD:**  
Wisconsin State Journal - Workers Comp, Drug Testing

**DHS:**  
Milwaukee Public Radio - Long Term Care  
WKOW - Madison - SeniorCare

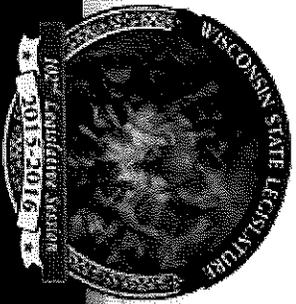
**DCF:**  
Racine Journal Times - Child Support

**Forward Wisconsin Development Authority:**  
Racine Journal Times - WEDC/WHEDA Merger

Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

Krause, Caroline

**From:** Rep. Nygren  
**Sent:** Friday, March 06, 2015 11:34 AM  
**To:** Rep. Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 3.6.15 - Public Hearing Info  
**Importance:** High



## Joint Committee on Finance Republican Update

March 6, 2015

### ***GOPweb***

*Over the coming weeks, JFC E-updates, talking points, columns, messaging and whatever else comes up during the budget process will be posted on [GOPweb](#). The material will be housed under Budget 2015-17.*

*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact*

### ***Joint Finance Committee Email Contact Information***

As you know, the JFC will hold public hearings in the proverbial "four corners of the state" during the last two weeks of March. The goal of these hearings is to gather information and input from Wisconsinites across the state.

If your constituents have questions, comments, or concerns regarding the state budget, feel free to provide them with the following email address:

[BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov)

The address will be up and running beginning **Monday, March 9th** and will send messages directly to the JFC committee clerk. This will be a useful tool for your constituents if they have opinions regarding the proposed state budget but don't live

*you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-23344.*

close to any of the public hearing locations listed below. The email address will be functional through the entire time of the public hearing process, ending on Friday, March 27th.

All comments and information sent to this address will be compiled and delivered to every member of the Joint Finance Committee.

### ***Public Hearings Schedule***

Now that the JFC has completed the agency briefings, it will begin the process of public hearings. If your constituents reside close to one of the hearing locations listed below and have opinions about the proposed budget, they are encouraged to attend and voice their concerns before the JFC.

The schedule is as follows:

**Wednesday, March 18 (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)**

Brillion High School  
Endries Performing Arts Center  
W1101 County Road HR  
Brillion, WI 54110

**Friday, March 20 (10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)**

Alverno College  
Pimian Theatre  
3400 South 43rd Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53234

**Monday, March 23 (10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)**

University of Wisconsin-Barron County  
Fine Arts Theatre  
1800 College Drive  
Rice Lake, WI 54868

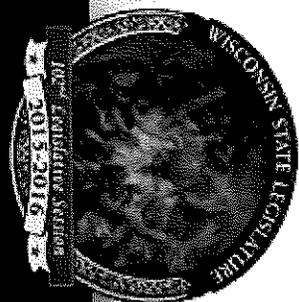
**Thursday, March 26 (9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)**

Reedsburg High School  
CAL Center Auditorium  
1100 South Albert Avenue  
Reedsburg, WI 53959

Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

**Krause, Caroline**

**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 3:10 PM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 3.11.15 - Watch Public Hearings Live  
**Importance:** High



## Joint Committee on Finance Republican Update

March 11, 2015

### ***GOPweb***

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*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact*

### ***Watch JFC Public Hearings Live on Wisconsin Eye***

Beginning next week, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) will start traveling the state to conduct public hearings in what is referred to as the JFC "road show." Wisconsin Eye will be joining the committee on the road to cover all four of the public hearings (schedule listed below).

If you're interested in streaming the hearings live on your computer, simply visit the [Wisconsin Eye](#) webpage and stream the hearings just as you would any other committee meeting.

If you don't have access to a computer but would still like to watch the hearings live, Wisconsin Eye has recently implemented new mobile capabilities for streaming video. Simply visit the [Wisconsin Eye](#) mobile site, choose the "Live Air Stream" option, and

*you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

agree to the website's terms and conditions. Shortly after, your live video stream should begin on your mobile device.

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***Public Hearings Schedule Reminder***

Next week, the JFC will begin the process of public hearings. If your constituents reside close to one of the hearing locations listed below and have opinions about the proposed budget, they are encouraged to attend and voice their concerns before the committee.

The schedule is as follows:

**Wednesday, March 18 (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)**

- Brillion High School
- Endries Performing Arts Center
- W1101 County Road HR
- Brillion, WI 54110

**Friday, March 20 (10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)**

- Alverno College
- Pitman Theatre
- 3400 South 43rd Street
- Milwaukee, WI 53234

**Monday, March 23 (10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)**

- University of Wisconsin-Barron County
- Fine Arts Theatre
- 1800 College Drive
- Rice Lake, WI 54868

**Thursday, March 26 (9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)**

- Reedsburg High School
- CAL Center Auditorium
- 1100 South Albert Avenue
- Reedsburg, WI 53959

### *Joint Finance Committee Email Contact Information Reminder*

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[BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov)

The address is now active and will send messages directly to the JFC committee clerk. This will be a useful tool for your constituents if they have opinions regarding the proposed state budget but don't live close to any of the public hearing locations listed below. The email address will be functional through the entire time of the public hearing process, ending on Friday, March 27th.

All comments and information sent to this address will be compiled and delivered to every member of the Joint Finance Committee.

Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

**Krause, Caroline**

**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 10:17 AM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 3.17.15 - Reminders

**Importance:** High



## Joint Committee on Finance Republican Update

March 17, 2015

### ***GOPweb***

*Over the coming weeks, JFC E-updates, talking points, columns, messaging and whatever else comes up during the budget process will be posted on GOPweb. The material will be housed under Budget 2015-17.*

*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact*

### ***Watch JFC Public Hearings Live on Wisconsin Eye***

This week, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) will start traveling the state to conduct public hearings in what is referred to as the JFC "road show". Wisconsin Eye will be joining the committee on the road to cover all four of the public hearings (schedule listed below).

If you're interested in streaming the hearings live on your computer, simply visit the Wisconsin Eye webpage and stream the hearings just as you would any other committee meeting.

If you don't have access to a computer but would still like to watch the hearings live, Wisconsin Eye has recently implemented new mobile capabilities for streaming video. Simply visit the Wisconsin Eye mobile site, choose the "Live Air Stream" option, and

*you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

agree to the website's terms and conditions. Shortly after, your live video stream should begin on your mobile device.

### ***Public Hearings Schedule***

Tomorrow, the JFC will begin the process of public hearings. If your constituents reside close to one of the hearing locations listed below and have opinions about the proposed budget, they are encouraged to attend and voice their concerns before the committee.

The schedule is as follows:

**Wednesday, March 18 (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)**

Brillion High School

Endries Performing Arts Center

W1101 County Road HR

Brillion, WI 54110

**Friday, March 20 (10:00 a.m. -- 5:00 p.m.)**

Alverno College

Pitman Theatre

3400 South 43rd Street

Milwaukee, WI 53234

**Monday, March 23 (10:00 a.m. -- 5:00 p.m.)**

University of Wisconsin-Barron County

Fine Arts Theatre

1800 College Drive

Rice Lake, WI 54868

**Thursday, March 26 (9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)**

Reedsburg High School

CAL Center Auditorium

1100 South Albert Avenue

Reedsburg, WI 53959

### *Joint Finance Committee Email Contact Information*

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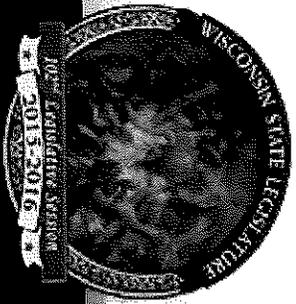
The address is now active and will send messages directly to the JFC committee clerk. This will be a useful tool for your constituents if they have opinions regarding the proposed state budget but don't live close to any of the public hearing locations. The email address will be functional through the entire time of the public hearing process, ending on Friday, March 27th.

All comments and information sent to this address will be compiled and delivered to every member of the Joint Finance Committee.

Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

**Krause, Caroline**

**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2015 12:58 PM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 3.27.15 - Public Hearings in Review  
**Importance:** High



## Joint Committee on Finance Republican Update

March 27, 2015

### ***What's Next:***

*The next steps in the state budget process are the Joint Finance Committee's (JFC) executive sessions. This is when each individual issue in the budget proposal is discussed and voted on by the committee.*

*JFC executive sessions will begin in early-mid April; however, specifics regarding the*

### ***JFC Public Hearings Come to an End***

Yesterday, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) wrapped up their fourth and final public hearing of this year's budget process. These hearings were held in the proverbial "four corners of the state," and many Wisconsin residents turned out to voice their opinions on the governor's proposed budget.

The following are the highlights from each of the hearings:

#### **Brillion:**

A total of 251 people registered to testify before the JFC.

The breakdown of those who registered is as follows:  
Information only: 57 people

committee's meeting schedule are yet to be determined.

JFC Republican E-Updates will continue through the executive sessions and will detail each meeting and budget motion.

## **GOPweb**

JFC E-updates, talking points, columns, messaging and whatever else comes up during the budget process are posted on GOPweb.

*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

In Favor: 60 people  
Against: 134 people

### **Milwaukee:**

A total of 360 people registered to testify before the JFC.

The breakdown of those who registered is as follows:

Information only: 55 people  
In Favor: 90 people  
Against: 215 people

### **Rice Lake:**

A total of 257 people registered to testify before the JFC.

The breakdown of those who registered is as follows:

Information only: 54 people  
In Favor: 39 people  
Against: 164 people

### **Reedsburg:**

A total of 289 people registered to testify before the JFC.

The breakdown of those who registered is as follows:

Information only: 49 people  
In Favor: 35 people  
Against: 205 people

Common themes from the nearly 1200 people who testified included the UW System budget, long-term care and aging programs like IRIS and SeniorCare, K-12 education, and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issues like the Stewardship program and the DNR Board.

If you would like to go back and watch coverage from any of the four public hearings, visit the [Wisconsin Eye archives](#).

## ***Recent Budget Announcements***

### **UW System:**

Prior to the start of the first JFC public hearing in Brillion, Rep. Nygren and Rep. Knudson announced that the Assembly GOP will work to lessen the proposed \$300 million cut to the UW System's biennial budget. At this time, it seems unlikely that the University of Wisconsin will be granted full public authority as proposed in the budget; however, the committee has committed to provide some cost-saving flexibilities this budget cycle.

Joint Statement: Rep. Nygren and Rep. Knudson  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

### **DOJ Request - Officer Involves Shooting Investigations:**

During the Republican JFC members' media availability before the Milwaukee public hearing, Assembly GOP members announced their support for additional resources for the Department of Justice (DOJ) to investigate officer involved shootings. Details about how these additional resources will materialize for the DOJ will be discussed by the committee over the course of the coming months.

Although the request was not included in his budget proposal, Governor Walker stated that he supports funding additional staff for DOJ to investigate officer-involved incidents.

These announcements come on the heels of a recent officer involved death in Madison.

Rep. Nygren's Statement  
Fox 6 Milwaukee

### **SeniorCare:**

On the morning of the last JFC public hearing in Reedsburg, Assembly GOP members of the committee announced that they will take a stand to save SeniorCare in the budget. This support comes after members of the Assembly GOP caucus sent letters to Rep. Nygren asking for the program to be preserved.

Many legislators have been hearing concerns from their districts' elderly populations about the governor's proposed changes to SeniorCare. In fact, Assembly Republicans included preservation of this critical elderly prescription drug program in our Forward Agenda released last fall. It is for these reasons that the Assembly Republican members of the JFC stepped forward and committed to preserving the structure of the program.

Rep. Nygren's Statement

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Assembly GOP Members' Statements

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### ***JFC Email Address - Extended Through Easter***

If your constituents have questions, comments, or concerns regarding the state budget, feel free to provide them with the following email address:

[BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov)

The address is now active and will send messages directly to the JFC committee clerk. This will be a useful tool for your constituents if they have opinions regarding the proposed state budget but don't live close to any of the public hearing locations. The email address will be functional through the entire time of the public hearing process, and will be available to receive messages through Easter Sunday (April 5th).

Additionally, for those who may want a mailing address to send comments to, please feel free to do so at:

Joint Finance Committee

Attn: Joe Malkasian

Room 305 East

State Capitol Building

Madison, WI 53708

All comments and information sent to these addresses will be compiled and delivered to every member of the Joint Finance Committee.

*Assembly GOP Members Hold Over 100 Listening Sessions Statewide!*

**Assembly GOP**  
**takes to the road.**  
Hosting over 100  
listening sessions statewide!  
WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY  
**GOP**

Feel free to use the graphic above for e-updates and social media posts.

This budget season, Assembly Republicans are holding over 100 listening sessions statewide! These listening sessions are in addition to the four JFC public hearings held during the last two weeks of March. Today, we can proudly say that Assembly GOP members are bringing the state budget to every corner of Wisconsin.

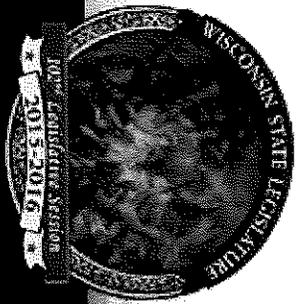
For a more accurate map showing listening session locations, see [Rep. Nygren's statement](#).

*"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson*

Joint Committee on Finance

**Krause, Caroline**

**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Friday, April 03, 2015 1:02 PM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 4.3.15 - A Closer Look at Health Care  
**Importance:** High



## Joint Committee on Finance Republican Update

April 3, 2015

### ***What's Next:***

*The next steps in the state budget process are the Joint Finance Committee's (JFC) executive sessions. This is when each individual issue in the budget proposal is discussed and voted on by the committee.*

*JFC Republican E-Updates will continue through the executive*

### ***Joint Finance Committee Executive Sessions - Tentative Start***

JFC executive sessions are tentatively scheduled to begin the week of April 13th, 2015.

These executive sessions are when each individual issue in the governor's budget proposal is discussed and voted on by the committee.

### ***Budget Motions:***

Members of JFC are still accepting budget motions!

sessions and will detail each meeting and budget motion.

## **GOPweb**

JFC E-updates, talking points, columns, messaging and whatever else comes up during the budget process are posted on GOPweb.

*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

It would be greatly appreciated by members of the committee if you would deliver all of your budget motion ideas to your assigned Budget Buddy prior to the start of JFC executive sessions.

\*This information is subject to change; more information and details will be available next week.\*

### ***Budget Update: A Closer Look at Health Care***

#### **Medical Assistance (MA):**

- The largest health and human services program administered through the Department of Health Services (DHS) is the state's medical assistance (MA) program
- MA provides acute medical and long-term care services to eligible individuals
- MA includes BadgerCare Plus for low-income individuals and families, and Medicaid coverage for elderly, blind and disabled (EBD) individuals, and various related programs
- Proposed budget fully funds our commitment to our MA populations
- MA funding is increased by \$647.6 million GPR to fully fund the program's cost-to-continue in the 2015-17 biennium; total cost to continue is \$1,677,416,000 all funds
- Total MA budget is \$9,101,679,100 in 15-16 and \$9,452,940,700 in the second year of the biennium
- One of the fastest growing commitments we have in our budget, expenses will increase by 8.1% in the first year and an additional 3.9% in the second.
- In 2013-14, MA enrollment in WI was 1,100,200 -- by the end of the next biennium, that number is projected to increase slightly (2.7%) to 1,130,200

#### **SeniorCare:**

- WI's state-run prescription medication discount program for seniors (over 65) who are not eligible for Medicaid drug benefits
- Assembly republicans are working to preserve SeniorCare
- Program began in 2001
- Over 80,000 seniors currently enrolled in program

- As the budget process continues in JFC, specifics about what the SeniorCare program will look like moving forward will be discussed

#### **Family Care and IRIS:**

- Under Family Care, managed care organizations (MCOs) provide long-term care services to elderly individuals, adults with developmental disabilities, and adults with physical disabilities
- Currently, Family Care and IRIS (self-directed care) are two separate programs
- Governor's budget proposal eliminates IRIS in name only, but includes self-directed care within the managed care model of Family Care
- Under current law, Family Care and IRIS are available in 57 counties, and will be expanded to an additional seven counties in calendar year 2015
- The eight counties that will not be participating in Family Care and IRIS at the end of calendar year 2015 are Adams, Dane, Florence, Forest, Oneida, Rock, Taylor, and Vilas. The governor's proposal expands the program statewide by January 1, 2017

#### **Included in the governor's budget proposal are 4 main changes to Family Care:**

1. **Self-Directed Services:** Require DHS to allow Family Care enrollees to self-direct services. This will eliminate the IRIS program in name only. The provision also removes all statutory references to IRIS.
2. **Primary and Acute Services in Family Care Program:** Require DHS to request a waiver from Health and Human Services (HHS) allowing for the inclusion of any primary and acute health services mandated under federal MA law that DHS may choose to offer as a benefit under the Family Care program. These may include physicians' services, inpatient hospital services, and skilled nursing home services. If approved by HHS, this provision allows DHS to offer the approved services under the Family Care program.
3. **Family Care Open Enrollment:** Require DHS to request a waiver from HHS allowing enrollees to change MCOs only during a specified open enrollment period and, if approved, implement this provision.
4. **MCO Contracts and Oversight:** Require DHS to request a waiver from HHS to remove statutory requirements for MCOs under Chapter 648 ("Regulation of Care Management Organizations")

More information on these changes can be found on page 213 of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau's [budget summary](#).

***JFC Email Address - Active Through This Weekend Only***

If your constituents have questions, comments, or concerns regarding the state budget, feel free to provide them with the following email address:

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Additionally, for those who may want a mailing address to send comments to, please feel free to do so at:

Joint Finance Committee  
Attn: Joe Malkasian  
Room 305 East  
State Capitol Building  
Madison, WI 53708

All comments and information sent to these addresses will be compiled and delivered to every member of the Joint Finance Committee.

Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

**Krause, Caroline**

**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2015 9:49 AM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 4.10.15 - Executive Sessions to Begin Next Week  
**Importance:** High



## Joint Committee on Finance Republican Update

April 10, 2015

### **GOPweb**

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*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a*

#### **Next Week: JFC Executive Sessions Begin**

JFC executive sessions are scheduled to begin next week **Wednesday, April 15, 2015**. This meeting was officially noticed on Thursday, April 9th.

These executive sessions are when each individual issue in the governor's budget proposal is discussed and voted on by the committee.

#### **On the Docket for Wednesday:**

Secretary of State

Public Service Commission

State Treasurer

Department of Revenue – Lottery Administration (pg. 385)

*JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

Department of Administration – Division of Gaming (pg. 46)  
Supreme Court

Circuit Courts

Court of Appeals

Judicial Council

Judicial Commission

Employment Relations Commission

***Budget Motions:***

Members of JFC are still accepting budget motions!

It would be greatly appreciated by members of the committee if you would deliver all of your budget motion ideas to your Budget Buddy prior to the start of JFC executive sessions next week.

If you are unable to deliver all of your completed budget motion requests to your Budget Buddy by the start of executive sessions and the agency/agencies your requests concern are not on the docket for Wednesday, please complete your requests and deliver them to your Budget Buddy as soon as possible.

***Budget Update: Milwaukee Bucks Arena***

As you've probably heard, there has been a lot of hype about the Milwaukee Bucks Arena proposal recently. The following is a compilation of information regarding the Bradley Center, the current arena proposal, and possible plans for the new structure.

***The Bradley Center***

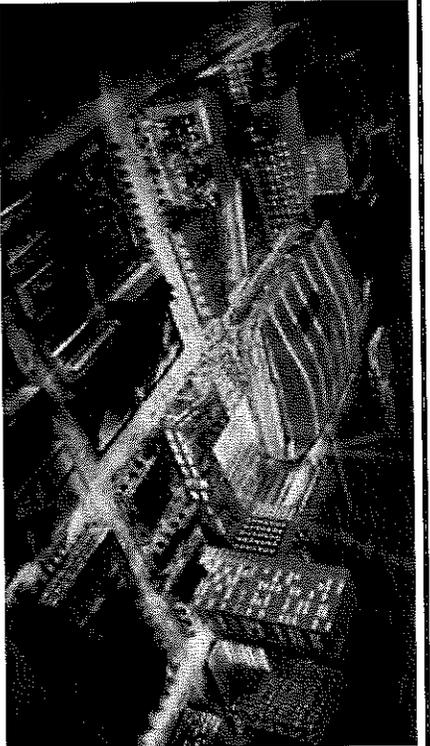
- The Metro Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC) estimates the yearly direct revenue by the Bradley Center at \$95.8 million.
- Many of those direct dollars spent as part of Bradley Center events are re-spent in the local economy.

- The gross dollar impact of the Bradley Center, both direct and indirect, on the Milwaukee metro area totals \$204.5 million, with 2,350 jobs supported, generating \$73.1 million in annual payroll.
- MMAC analysis indicates that the Bradley Center's overall economic impact generates approximately \$8.8 million in local and state tax revenues annually.
- Nearly one out of three Bradley Center event attendees comes from outside the metro Milwaukee area of Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha counties and that these non-local residents generate \$41.6 million of new spending in the metro area every year.
- Alternatively, a Legislative Reference Bureau report states that publicly financed sports arenas do not provide a positive economic impact to communities.

### **The Current Proposal**

- Governor Walker proposed a \$220 million commitment from the state to help fund a \$500 million arena, financed through a so-called "jock tax" or the income taxes generated from Milwaukee Bucks and out of state teams that play basketball in Milwaukee
- Legislature wasn't comfortable with state commitment of \$220 million
- Lawmakers alternatively proposed state contribution of \$150 million
- Legislators have repeatedly called for additional funds from the city of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County
- Lawmakers looking at ways to lessen impact to taxpayers -- especially those outside of the Milwaukee metro area
- Possibility of some loans for the arena coming from the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL), as they offer lower interest rates
- Conversations are ongoing. Looking to find a solution that all of Wisconsin can support

### **New Arena Plans**



- This week, the Milwaukee Bucks and their design team released renderings of their plan for the proposed new arena.
- This \$1 billion project includes
- Lawmakers -- including JFC Assembly Co-Chair Nygren -- have said this new information from the Bucks does not change the state's proposed \$150 million commitment for the project.
- Governor Walker, Speaker Vos, and other members of leadership continue to call on the city and county for more funding for the proposed project

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett's statement

Senator Fitzgerald's statement

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

***Reminder: JFC Email Address is Now Inactive***

Now that JFC public hearings have ended and executive sessions are scheduled to begin, the [BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov) email address has been deactivated.

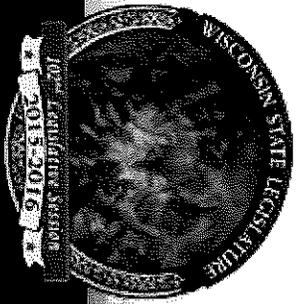
All correspondence received at this address through last Sunday, April 5th will be compiled and delivered to JFC members for their consideration and review.

If you would like a copy of the testimony for your office, please request a blank CD from the Sergeant's office and bring it to Joe Malkasian in 305 East. He will make you a copy of all the materials received at the JFC email address this budget season.

Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

Krause, Caroline

**From:** Rep. Nygren  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2015 5:54 PM  
**To:** Rep. Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 4.15.15 - First Executive Session  
**Importance:** High



## Joint Committee on Finance Republican Update

April 15, 2015

### **GOPweb**

*JFC E-updates, talking points, columns, messaging and whatever else comes up during the budget process are posted on GOPweb.*

*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a*

### **Messaging**

- During the first JFC executive session today, the Committee began to improve upon the foundation the governor provided with his budget proposal.
- The JFC voted in favor of provisions that promote effective and efficient government.
- This morning, the Committee removed 14 non-fiscal policy items from the budget (outlined below).
- These 14 items are better addressed outside the budget process as their own legislation.
- The governor's budget provision regarding Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Board has been taken out of the budget by the JFC; the Board will keep its current policymaking authority.
- This is a win for agriculture workers and farmers statewide.

*JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Board was also taken out of the budget by the JFC
- This DNR Board was removed to be consistent -- if the Committee deleted the DATCP Board as non-fiscal policy, it makes sense to apply that same rationale to the DNR Board.
- Members of the Committee will still continue to work with legislators and stakeholders to find common sense reforms that can be applied to the DNR Board.

### ***First JFC Executive Session***

Today the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) completed its first executive session of the 2015-17 budget. The following is a list of issue areas taken up by the Committee and voted on:

#### ***Secretary of State***

The JFC unanimously supported the governor's plan to delete the positions and make the office of the Secretary of State to a smaller, more reasonable office space. Members expressed concerns about the Secretary of State and Treasurer being housed in the same office, as this may violate open meetings laws because they are both members of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. To address this, the Committee added that the Secretary of State's office could not be housed in the same office as the State Treasurer.

The Committee also voted 12-4 to remove the requirement that the Secretary of State must publish new laws in the official state newspaper. The motion moved that responsibility to the Legislative Reference Bureau to publish notices online.

Position and Funding Reductions (Paper #580) Vote: Alt. 2d w/ 1 Motion, Adopted 16-0

Transfer of Municipal Filing Functions to the DOA (Paper #581) Adopted: Unanimous Consent

PR Appropriation Balance (paper #582) Vote: Alt. 2, Adopted 16-0

GPR-REV Reestimate (Paper #583) Adopted: Unanimous Consent w/ 1 Motion

***Public Service Commission***

The JFC proposed a plan that adds \$6 million into the Broadband Expansion Grants, but spread that out over the next four years at \$1.5 million annually. This represents a 200% increase in available funds per year to help expand broadband into unserved or under-served areas of our state. Meanwhile, an outstanding balance would be transferred to the general fund.

The JFC also approved a motion to provide \$125,000 annually for the state broadband office rather than the \$250,000 a year the governor proposed. The change also made it a one-time appropriation and would not add the funding to the base budget for 2017-19.

The JFC approved the wind energy health study with modifications to the language and a zeroing out of the funding with a party-line vote of 12-4.

Funding for Broadband Expansion Grants from the Universal Service Fund (Paper #545) Vote: Adopted 16-0 w/ 1 Motion

Funding for State Broadband Office (Paper #546) Vote: Adopted 15-1 w/ 1 Motion  
Criteria for Awarding Broadband Expansion Grants (Paper #547) Vote: Alt. 2, Adopted 16-0

Eliminate Long-Term Vacancies (Paper #548) Vote: Alt. 2ab, 3c, Adopted 16-0  
Wind Energy Health Study (Paper #549) Vote: Adopted 12-4 w/ 2 Motions (Motion #48, Motion #29)

***State Treasurer***

No issue papers were prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

***Department of Revenue - Lottery Administration***

The modification regarding the lottery fund condition was adopted in JFC by unanimous consent.

Lottery Fund Condition (Paper #565) Adopted: Unanimous Consent

***Department of Administration - Division of Gaming***

The JFC adopted this provision regarding tribal gaming appropriations with a motion with a unanimous vote.

Tribal Gaming Appropriations and General Fund Revenue (Paper #130) Adopted:  
Unanimous Consent w/ 1 Motion

***Supreme Court***

The JFC voted with a motion to consolidate the State Law Library with the Director of State Courts with a vote of 12-4. The committee also unanimously voted, with the addition of two motions, to delete uniform chart of accounts.

Consolidate State Law Library with the Director of State Courts (Paper #620) Vote: Alt. 1, Adopted 12-4

Delete Uniform Chart of Accounts (Paper #621) Vote: Alt. 3 w/ 2 Motions, Adopted 16-0 (Motion #26, Motion #46)

***Circuit Courts***

The JFC voted unanimously in favor of provisions regarding the transfer of court reporters, consolidation of circuit court support payments, guardian ad litem costs, and court interpreter fees, as well as a deletion of forfeiture fee exemptions.

Transfer of Court Reporters, Consolidation of Circuit Court Support Payments, Guardian Ad Litem Costs, and Court Interpreter Fee (Paper #225) Vote: Alt. A4/B2,

Adopted 16-0

Delete Forfeiture Fee Exemptions (Paper #226) Vote: Alt. 3, Adopted 16-0

***Court of Appeals***

No issue papers were prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

***Judicial Council***

JFC voted 15-1 to get rid of the governor's call to eliminate the Judicial Council, which advises state government on changes to the court system. JFC also approved a motion changing the council's funding source.

Elimination of Judicial Council (Paper #410) Vote: Adopted 15-1 w/ 1 Motion

***Judicial Commission***

JFC unanimously approved rejecting the governor's call to move the Judicial Commission, which handles discipline of judges, under the state Supreme Court.

Transfer of Judicial Commission to the Supreme Court (Paper #405) Vote: Alt. 2, Adopted 16-0

***Employment Relations Commission***

The program revenue lapse was adopted unanimously by the JFC with an alternate offered by the co-chairs.

Program Revenue Lapse (Paper #275) Vote: Alt. 2, Adopted 16-0

This information can also be found online if your individual office subscribes to the Finance portion of the Wheeler Report website.

Click here for the Co-chairs joint statement on completion of the first executive session.

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***Non-Fiscal Items***

The JFC has identified 14 non-fiscal policy items contained within the Governor's 2015-17 budget recommendations and believe that they should be removed from the budget; for the most part, they should instead be considered as non-budget legislation by other standing committees.

The following is a list of these non-fiscal items:

***Administration***

General Agency Provisions

- Eliminate General Requirements for Cost-Benefit Analysis (Page 26, #19)
- Contractual Services Definition (Page 27, #20)

Transfers

- Electronic Recording and Delivery of Worker's Compensation Hearing Testimony and Materials (Page 35, #6; Page 42, #4; and Page 554, #4)
- Hearings and Appeals
- Historic Preservation Appeals Process and Funding (Page 43, #5 and Page 255, #9)

***Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection***

- Convert Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to an Advisory Council (Page 57, #7)

***Building Commission***

- Modifications to Building Commission's Authority (Page 77, #3)
- Building Program Project Thresholds (Page 79, #4)
- Transfer Authority to Contract for Operating Notes to DOA (Page 81, #5)
- Authority to Contract for Public Debt and Revenue Obligations (Page 82, #6)

***Employee Trust Funds***

- Group Insurance Board Term Length (Page 146, #10)

***Natural Resources***

Department-wide

- Convert Natural Resources Board to Advisory Council (Page 304, #7)

***Shared Revenue and Tax Relief***

Property Taxation

- County, Regional, and City Assessment (Page 405, #1 and Page 382, #3)

***University of Wisconsin System***

- Exempt Research and Studies from Public Inspection (Page 494, #52)

***Wisconsin Technical College System***

- Tuition Freeze for High Demand Fields (Page 538, #8)

With a 12-4 vote, JFC rejected a Democrat motion to remove all non-fiscal policy items from the budget.

Read the JFC Co-chairs' memo on non-fiscal policy items [here](#).

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***Next Executive Session: Friday, April 17th***

***On the docket for Friday:***

Wisconsin Technical College System

Department of Military Affairs

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Office of the Commissioner of Insurance  
Board on Aging and Long-Term Care  
Board for People with Developmental Disabilities  
Department of Health Services -- Medical Assistance -- Administration

***Reminder: Budget Motion Requests***

Time is of the essence. Please complete your budget motion requests and deliver them to your assigned Budget Buddy *this week*.

If you are unable to deliver all of your completed budget motion requests to your Budget Buddy by the end of this week and the agency/agencies your requests concern are not on the docket to be taken up in Finance, please complete your requests and deliver them to your Budget Buddy as soon as possible.

***Important Note:***

Once an issue area is closed by the JFC, it is *not* revisited by the committee. It is for this reason that you must deliver your budget motion requests to your Budget Buddy at your earliest opportunity.

Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from washing the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

Krause, Caroline

**From:** Rep. Nygren  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2015 5:36 PM  
**To:** Rep. Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 4.17.15 - Funding for WI Veterans  
**Importance:** High



# Joint Committee on Finance

## Republican Update

April 17, 2015

### ***GOPweb***

*JFC E-updates, talking points, columns, messaging and whatever else comes up during the budget process are posted on [GOPweb](#).*

*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a*

### ***Messaging***

After the first 2 days of votes, JFC Republicans have cut all funds in the budget by \$21 million. Alternatively, during that same period of time, JFC Democrats have offered budget proposals that, if approved by the Committee, would have cost the state nearly \$76 million to fund. As we move forward with the budget process, we will continue our prudent fiscal budgeting so that we are making sound financial decisions and spending within our means.

### ***Transportation***

- The Fiscal Bureau released a [paper](#) today that re-evaluated base year revenues for the transportation fund.

*JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

- This paper shows that the condition of the fund has improved over the last few months.
- The improvement includes \$73.5 million more in the transportation fund than was originally estimated at the time of the Department of Transportation's (DOT) biennial budget request in 2014.
- This \$73.5 million will help reduce the amount of transportation bonding in the budget when this issue comes before the JFC for a vote.
- Three factors explain the bulk of the additional dollars: 1) \$20.2 million increase in the estimated opening balance due to higher motor vehicle fuel tax and registrations; 2) \$9.2 million increase in gas tax revenues are anticipated for the upcoming 2015-17 biennium; and 3) \$43.3 million reduction in estimated debt service.
- The estimated fund balance had previously been estimated at 0.3% of the gross transportation fund revenues for the biennium. Under the re-estimates, that figure rises to 2.2%.

Click [here](#) for the co-chairs' statement.

#### **Veterans**

- JFC voted in favor of motions and provisions that help WI veterans.
- A motion was passed to help ensure veterans returning to higher ed at tech colleges are better equipped for the transition.
- This motion allocated \$1 million to fund grants at Wisconsin Technical College schools to develop and expand specialized instructional and support services for veterans.

Click [here](#) for the co-chairs' statement.

#### **Medical Assistance**

- The Committee also took up administrative issues dealing with Medical Assistance (MA).
- A motion was passed to help reduce MA and FoodShare fraud in cases where the fraud is proven intentional.

- \$500,000 was allocated for local units of government for fraud investigation and prevention.

### ***JFC Executive Session Recap***

Today the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) completed its second executive session of the 2015-17 budget. The following is a list of issue areas taken up by the Committee and voted on:

#### ***Wisconsin Technical College System***

The most controversial topic within the Wisconsin Technical College System issue papers was the proposed elimination of the Educational Approval Board (EAB). Because this issue deals with the proposal to merge the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) and the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI), the EAB issue papers will be taken up by the JFC at a later date. The thought process was that the mergers have now been introduced as separate legislation and thus should be vetted and better determined through that process.

As the result of several Budget Buddy requests, the JFC voted to retain a 30% cap on the performance-based funding for tech schools starting in 2017-18 and remaining at that level going forward.

Elimination of Long-Term Vacancies Vote: Alt 2, adopted, 16-0

Performance Based Funding Vote: Adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion

Tuition Freeze in High Demand Fields Removed from budget (non-fiscal policy item)

Educational Approval Board Deferred Action: Not taken up today

#### **Other Adopted Motions:**

Motion #95: Definition of an "employer" member on the Milwaukee Technical College Board.

Motion #94: Waives fees for insuring people who take fire fighter training courses if they are already covered by insurance.

Motion #24: Allows a home-schooled individual under the age of 16 to attend a tech school; which brings parity to home school kids with public school kids.

### *Military Affairs*

All issues under the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) were voted on unanimously by the Committee.

The JFC voted to reduce 5 positions at DMA which had been vacant for more than a year.

The Committee also provided \$1 million in federal funds to help fund the soldier readiness processing (SRP) program for our National Guard volunteers.

Standard Budget Adjustments Accepted by unanimous consent

Eliminate Long-Term Vacancies Vote: Alt. 3, 5, adopted 16-0

National Guard Readiness Vote: Adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion

Military Property Program Vote: Alt. 2a, c, adopted 16-0

Other Adopted Motions:

Motion #112: Established reporting standards for municipalities that partake in the Military Property Program.

### *Veterans Affairs*

A motion passed unanimously by the JFC will work to help ease veterans' transition from armed service to college by funding services that help veteran students in Wisconsin technical colleges.

Also the product of a Budget Buddy request, \$405,000 will be provided each year of the budget to help cover student tuition costs for veterans who attend either of the two tribal colleges in our state.

Standard Budget Adjustments Vote: Alt. B3, A2, adopted 16-0

Veterans Trust Fund Condition Statement and Other Related Items Vote: Alt. A1, adopted 16-0; Alt. B2, C3, adopted 12-4

Eliminate Long-Term Vacancies Vote: Alt. 2C, adopted 12-4

Grand for Global Entrepreneurship Collective, Inc. (Formerly Veteransfer) Vote: Adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion

Assistance for Needy Veterans Program Eligibility Accepted by unanimous consent

Military Funeral Honors Eligibility Accepted by unanimous consent  
Tribal College Reimbursement Program Vote: Adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion

Other Adopted Motions:

Motion #113

Motion #103

***Insurance***

The goal to cease operations of the Local Government Property Insurance Fund is a phase-out of the program. The adopted motion delays implementation of the program's phase-out by two years, from Jan. 1, 2016 to Jan. 1, 2018. This will allow current program participants to react to this change.

Cease Operations of the Local Government Property Insurance Fund Vote: Adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion

BOALTC Helpline Transfer Accepted by unanimous consent

Transfer Administrative Law Judge Functions Accepted by unanimous consent

***Board on Aging and Long Term Care***

All issues under the Board on Aging and Long Term Care were voted on unanimously by the Committee.

The JFC voted to create an ombudsman position for our veterans housed in the state veterans homes in King, Union Grove, and Chippewa Falls.

Ombudsman Services for Residents of the State Veterans Homes, Revised Alternatives

Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 16-0

Broadband Service Expansion Vote: Adopted 16-0

***Board for People with Developmental Disabilities***

No issue papers were prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

***Health Services -- Medical Assistance -- Administration***

Today, only administrative functions of the Department of Health Service's (DHS) Medical Assistance (MA) program were taken up by the JFC. In addition to the issues, a

motion was passed to help prevent and investigate MA and FoodShare fraud. The Committee voted in favor of this motion unanimously.

The motion relating to administrative contracts was a result of several Budget buddy requests. It allows DHS to charge a fee to replace lost or stolen EBT cards.

In order to qualify for the federal waiver, the motion had to be worded to say an "allowable" cost -- not one set to a dollar figure.

The state replaced 130,000 lost/stolen EBT cards between March 2014 and February 2015.

If it's assured that a replacement card costs \$3.50, this motion could save the state up to \$455,000 annually.

Motion #110 is also the result of a Budget Buddy request and states that a funeral home, cemetery, or crematory is not required to pay certain fees in cases where they request and receive reimbursement under the Wisconsin funeral and cemetery aids program (WFCAP).

Some counties charge up to \$350 for a cremation fee and up to \$150 for the coroner to sign the death certificate.

Creation of the Division of Medicaid Services Vote: Adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion

FoodShare Employment and Training Cost-to-Continue Vote: Alt. B2, adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion

MA and FoodShare Administrative Contracts Vote: Alt. A2, adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion  
Income Maintenance Consortia Funding Allocations Vote: Alt. A3, B1, C3, adopted 12-4, and 1 motion, adopted 16-0

Funeral and Cemetery Aids Vote: Alt. B1, C1, adopted 12-4 w/ 2 motions (Motion #110, Motion #77)

This information can also be found online if your individual office subscribes to the Finance portion of the Wheeler Report website.

**Next Executive Session: Wednesday, April 22nd**

***On the docket for Wednesday:***

Historical Society  
Natural Resources -- Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation  
Tourism  
Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board  
Fox River Navigational System Authority  
State Fair Park  
Transportation -- Fund Condition  
Transportation -- Local Transportation Aid  
Transportation -- Local Transportation Assistance  
Transportation -- Motor Vehicles  
Transportation -- State Patrol  
Transportation -- Department-wide

***Reminder: Non-Fiscal Items***

The JFC has identified 14 non-fiscal policy items contained within the Governor's 2015-17 budget recommendations and believe that they should be removed from the budget; for the most part, they should instead be considered as non-budget legislation by other standing committees.

The following is a list of these non-fiscal items:

***Administration***

General Agency Provisions

- Eliminate General Requirements for Cost-Benefit Analysis (Page 26, #19)
- Contractual Services Definition (Page 27, #20)

Transfers

- Electronic Recording and Delivery of Worker's Compensation Hearing Testimony and Materials (Page 35, #6; Page 42, #4; and Page 554, #4)
- Hearings and Appeals

- Historic Preservation Appeals Process and Funding (Page 43, #5 and Page 255, #9)

***Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection***

- Convert Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to an Advisory Council (Page 57, #7)

***Building Commission***

- Modifications to Building Commission's Authority (Page 77, #3)
- Building Program Project Thresholds (Page 79, #4)
- Transfer Authority to Contract for Operating Notes to DOA (Page 81, #5)
- Authority to Contract for Public Debt and Revenue Obligations (Page 82, #6)

***Employee Trust Funds***

- Group Insurance Board Term Length (Page 146, #10)

***Natural Resources***

Department-wide

- Convert Natural Resources Board to Advisory Council (Page 304, #7)

***Shared Revenue and Tax Relief***

Property Taxation

- County, Regional, and City Assessment (Page 405, #1 and Page 382, #3)

***University of Wisconsin System***

- Exempt Research and Studies from Public Inspection (Page 494, #52)

***Wisconsin Technical College System***

- Tuition Freeze for High Demand Fields (Page 538, #8)

With a 12-4 vote, JFC rejected a Democrat motion to remove all non-fiscal policy items from the budget.

Read the JFC Co-chairs' memo on non-fiscal policy items [here](#).

***Reminder: Budget Motion Requests***

Time is of the essence. Please complete your budget motion requests and deliver them to your assigned Budget Buddy *today*.

If you are unable to deliver all of your completed budget motion requests to your Budget Buddy by the end of the day today and the agency/agencies your requests concern are not on the docket to be taken up in Finance, please complete your requests and deliver them to your Budget Buddy as soon as possible.

***Important Note:***

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Joint Committee on Finance  
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**Krause, Caroline**

**From:** Rep. Nygren  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2015 2:10 PM  
**To:** Rep. Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 4.22.15 - Starting DNR and DOT  
**Importance:** High



## Joint Committee on Finance Republican Update

April 22, 2015

### **GOPweb**

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### **Messaging**

The bulk of today's JFC executive session pertained to issues affecting the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Transportation (DOT).

- We continued to streamline government by eliminating vacant positions in the DNR, cutting spending for these positions, and affording flexibilities for the department to enact these changes.
- The Committee voted to reduce the size of government by attaching the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board to the Department of Natural Resources and keeping the administrative functions of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve and the Kickapoo Reserve Management Board under the Department of Tourism.

*JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

- Today's vote allocates funds to the DNR for deer carcass removal on state highways, but stipulates that the department must perform a study on the effectiveness of the removal program.
- A motion passed that eliminates the archaic process where the DNR would have to issue a paper permit for drivers who hit and kill a deer with their vehicle to take the carcass. Now, drivers who hit and kill deer with their cars will be able to call the DNR to report the incident prior to taking the carcass -- effectively eliminating unnecessary administrative steps and red tape in the process.

*So far this budget season, we've:*

- Reduced all funds by \$19.5 million
- Reduced GPR spending by \$9.7 million
- Reduced the number of FTE positions by 26

### ***JFC Executive Session Recap***

Today the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) completed its third executive session of the 2015-17 budget. The following is a list of issue areas taken up by the Committee and voted on:

#### ***Historical Society***

The JFC restored funding for 1 position for the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center per the request of DOA in errata materials submitted to the Committee.

Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 16-0  
State Document Depository Library Exemption Accepted by unanimous consent

#### ***Natural Resources -- Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation***

The JFC voted to eliminate 13.35 vacant positions and reduce department funding for these positions, which saves over \$1 million/year from the Fish and Wildlife Account. Additionally, the Committee allocated funds for the department to continue to remove car-killed deer from highways. A bipartisan motion was adopted to have DNR do a more in-depth study of the Fish and Wildlife Account so they will be able to come back

to the legislature with recommendations on how to make the fund more stable in the future.

Fish and Wildlife Account Condition Vote: Adopted w/ 2 motions (Motion #144 (12-4),

Motion #146 (16-0))

Repeal Car-Killed Deer Appropriations Vote: Adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion

Conservation Warden Overtime and Computers Vote: Alt. A2b, B3, adopted 12-4

Recreational Vehicle Re-estimates Accepted by unanimous consent

Snowmobile Supplemental Trail Aids Joint Finance Requests Vote: Adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion

ATV Landowner Incentive Program Vote: Alt. 1, adopted 12-4

Wolf Depredation Program Appropriation Vote: Alt 1, adopted 16-0

**Other Adopted Motions:**

Motion #147: This motion streamlines regulations and removes the requirement that a license is necessary to pursue bear. To achieve this, the motion eliminates Class B bear licenses. In addition, the JFC voted to specify that no license is required to conduct certain activities (tracking, baiting, etc) as long as these activities aren't being conducted for the purpose of shooting at, taking, catching, or killing a bear.

### ***Tourism***

The Committee voted to keep the Kickapoo Valley Reserve and the Kickapoo Reserve Management Board administratively under the Department of Tourism; however, it will be budgeted as a separate agency. The JFC also voted to administratively attach the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board to the DNR.

Kickapoo Valley Reserve and Lower Wisconsin Riverway Board Vote: Alt. A2, 4ab, B1, 4, adopted 16-0

Marketing Earmarks Vote: Adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion

### ***Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board***

Attach LWSRB to DNR via Paper #626

No issue papers were prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

### ***Fox River Navigational System Authority***

No issue papers were prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

***State Fair Park***

No issue papers were prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

***Transportation -- Fund Condition***

Deferred Action: Not taken up today

Fund Condition Statement

***Transportation -- local Transportation Aid***

Deferred Action: Not taken up today

General Transportation Aids

Mass Transit Operating Assistance

Transit Safety Oversight Program

Elderly and Disabled Capital Assistance Program Modifications

***Transportation -- Local Transportation Assistance***

Deferred Action: Not taken up today

Freight Rail Preservation Bonding

Transportation Facilities Economic Assistance and Development Program

Transportation Alternatives Program

Harbor Assistance Program Bonding

***Transportation -- Motor Vehicles***

The JFC voted to provide the DOT with the authority to transition drivers from an instructional permit to a probationary license to a regular license electronically.

Additionally, the Committee modified the governor's recommendation to waive various fees for holders of military commercial drivers licenses. JFC voted to waive fees and related endorsements, as well as the \$10 issuance fee, only for the specified type of license/related endorsements, at the time of initial issuance.

Driver License and Identification Card Changes Vote: Alt. 2BC, 3A, adopted 12-4

Waiver of Various Fees for Holders of Military Commercial Driver Licenses Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 14-2

Other Adopted Motions:

Motion #145: The result of a Budget Buddy request, this motion would allow a farm tractor to be operated on a highway without being registered with the DOT if the tractor is used for special occasions such as display and parade purposes, participation in tractor or antique vehicle clubs, or when used for occasional personal use (not regular daily transportation).

***Transportation -- State Patrol***

The JFC voted to define a "private motor carrier" as any person who provides transportation of property or passengers by a commercial motor vehicle as described in 49 CFR Part 309.5 and is not a for-hire motor carrier.

State Patrol Overtime Costs Accepted by unanimous consent

Private Motor Carrier Definition Alt. 1, adopted 16-0

***Transportation -- Department-wide***

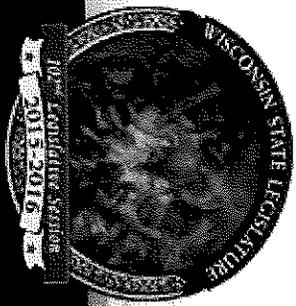
No issue papers were prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

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Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

**Krause, Caroline**

**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2015 6:56 PM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 5.5.15 - DA Positions and Environmental Quality  
**Importance:** High



## Joint Committee on Finance Republican Update

May 5, 2015

### ***GOPweb***

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### ***Messaging***

#### ***UW System:***

This morning, the Co-chairs of the budget-writing Joint Finance Committee (JFC) announced that the Committee will not be passing the governor's public authority proposal for the UW System. The JFC, along with many other members of the Assembly Majority Caucus, believe that the System has demonstrated they are not yet ready to become a full public authority. The JFC will continue to have open dialogue with the System and other stakeholders in order to determine what flexibilities will be most helpful for the System this budget cycle. Some of these flexibilities may include items like procurement and eliminating superfluous mandates.

*JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

***Additional JFC Talking Points:***

- A Darling/Czaja motion passed unanimously that allocates \$100,000 to the Wisconsin Well Women Program in the 2nd year of the biennium to increase low income women's accessibility to breast and cervical cancer prevention and treatment. Click [here](#) for the JFC Co-chairs' statement, and [here](#) for the American Cancer Society's release.
- In a bipartisan effort, the JFC voted to increase District Attorney (DA) positions and funding for these positions in Florence, Buffalo, and Pepin Counties.
- The JFC voted to maintain environmental quality while remaining fiscally responsible.

***So far this budget, we've:***

- Reduced all funds by \$19.7 million
- Reduced GPR spending by \$19.1 million
- Reduced the number of FTE positions by 36.15

Meanwhile, in today's JFC executive session, the Democrats offered motions and budget alternatives that would have cost the state over \$10.5 million. After only 4 executive sessions this budget season, the Democrats have wanted to spend a total of nearly \$87 million.

***JFC Executive Session Recap***

Today the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) completed its fourth executive session of the 2015-17 budget. The following is a list of issue areas taken up by the Committee and voted on:

***Department of Health Services***

The JFC voted in favor of the governor's proposal to fund the projected cost of SSI state benefit payments and transfer the Pretorial Intoxicated Driver Intervention Grant Program from DOT to DHS. According to today's vote, DHS will now fund this grant program through their own allocated funds.

Additionally, the JFC supported the Governor's plan to transfer oversight of food, lodging, and recreational establishment regulations from DHS to DATCP. Moreover, committee members voted to freeze inspection fees until the next biennium. A motion also created a Food Safety Advisory Council to be appointed by DATCP.

Lastly, the Committee voted to transfer \$1,000,000 collected from the health care provider fees to the JFC appropriation to be used for mental health related bills later this session. The motion requires DHS to use any remaining money collected from the fee.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI): No action required (Governor's position)

Transfer of Regulation Food, Lodging, and Recreational Establishments to DATCP

Vote: adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion

Pretrial Intoxicated Driver Intervention Grant Program: No action required (Governor's position)

Repeal Health Care Provider Fees and Data Collection and Dissemination Vote: adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion

**Additional Adopted Motions:**

Motion #189 Vote: adopted 16-0. Allocates \$100,000 in the 2nd year of the biennium to Wisconsin Well Woman for the prevention and treatment of breast cancer for low income women.

Motion #179 Vote: adopted 16-0. The Mike Johnson Life Care grants provide funding to AIDS service organizations. This motion increased funding for these grants by \$150,000 GPR annually.

Motion #159 Vote: adopted 16-0. Allocates one-time funding of \$20,000 GPR in each year of the biennium as a grant to an entity that provides or facilitates advanced life support training in rural hospitals and clinics.

Motion #180 Vote: Adopted 16-0. Increases the time period a pharmacy has to update the Wisconsin immunization registry after administering a vaccine from 24 hours to 7 days.

#### ***Governor***

The JFC voted to delete the Read to Lead Development Fund and amend the GPR annual literacy improvement appropriation. As a result, these grants may be made from the appropriation to any person or school board for supporting a literacy or early childhood development program.

Transfer Read to Lead Grant Program Vote: Alt. 2 adopted, 14-2.

***Lieutenant Governor***

No issue papers were prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

***Legislature***

In a motion, the Committee voted to delete the provision that would create a Judicial Compensation Commission. Moreover, this motion repeals current law specifying that the salary of the Chief Justice may be different than the salaries for associate justices that make up the Supreme Court.

Judicial Compensation Commission and the Joint Committee on Employment Relations  
Vote: adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion

**Additional Adopted Motions:**

Motion #188 Vote: adopted 16-0. Requires a joint committee to plan educational opportunities and festivities for the 100th anniversary of the State Capitol in 2017.

***District Attorneys***

The JFC voted to provide District Attorneys (DAs) and the Office of the State Public Defender with a 2% increase in their 2nd year of the biennium. This will support salary adjustments for eligible assistant district attorneys (ADAs), deputy district attorneys (DDAs), and assistant state public defenders (ASPDs) under a pay progression plan.

Additionally, in a bipartisan effort, the Committee approved a motion that specifies that a special prosecutor may be appointed if a DA, ADA, or DDA is on maternity or paternity leave.

Lastly, the JFC voted to delete the provision to transfer the State Prosecutors Office from DOA to DOJ.

**Adopted Motions:**

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Motion #193 vote: adopted 16-0. Expands upon Motion #185 to increase DA positions and funding in Buffalo and Pepin Counties from part-time to full-time.

Standard Budget Adjustments: Modification accepted by unanimous consent  
Pay Progression Vote: adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion  
Special Prosecutor Appointments Vote: Alt. A1, B1, C2 adopted w/ 1 motion  
Transfer State Prosecutors Office from the Department of Administration to the  
Department of Justice Vote: Alt.3, adopted 16-0

***Public Defender***

The JFC voted to delete the governor's proposal that would create a conflicts office in Milwaukee County as part of a two-year pilot program. This vote saves over \$1.5 million over the biennium.

Additionally, the Committee allocated funds for network and server management services to increase and ensure cybersecurity under the Office of the State Public Defender. The amount allocated by the JFC is \$672,000 less than originally proposed by the governor.

Increased Staffing for the Public Defender: No action required (Governor's position)

Conflicts Office Creation Vote: Alt. 3, adopted 12-4

Cybersecurity Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 12-4

***Natural Resources -- Environmental Quality***

Today, the JFC did not take up issues regarding the Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative, the Extension Recycling Education and Solid Waste Research Experiments, or the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board. All three of these entities are part of the University of Wisconsin. These issue areas will be taken up when the Committee determines the best path forward with the UW.

Additionally, the Committee voted in favor of the governor's position on three separate issues: 1) Municipal and County Recycling Grants: The Committee voted to maintain the current funding amount for 2016-17 and maintain base funding for the recycling consolidation grant program. 2) Converting Pollution Abatement Debt Service from GPR to SEG Environmental Management Account: This vote converts the SEG appropriation from sum certain to sum sufficient. 3) Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Program: The JFC voted to maintain base funding for the awards under this program.

Today's vote also sunset the Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund Award (PECFA). This fund was created as a response to federal requirements enacted 25 years ago, and is becoming increasingly superfluous in recent years. Applicants looking to take advantage of the fund before it is sunset must notify the DNR by July 1, 2017 and must submit their reimbursement claim before July 1, 2020, as described below in the motion attached to "PECFA Program Sunset."

Lastly, the JFC made changes to the governor's proposal to transfer the private onsite wastewater treatment system (POWTS) from DSPPS to DNR. Today's vote maintains that POWTS will remain with DSPPS/DFIPS. Moreover, the Committee voted unanimously to restore the POWTS under DSPPS/DFIPS on an ongoing basis.

Ballast Water Discharge Fees Vote: Alt. 1, 4, adopted 12-4

Environmental Management Account Overview: No action required (overview paper).

Well Compensation Grant Appropriation Vote: Alt. 1B, 2, 3, adopted 16-0

Contaminated Sediment Bonding Vote: Alt. A3, B2, adopted 12-4

Municipal and County Recycling Grants: No action required (Governor's position)

Convert Pollution Abatement Debt Service from GPR to SEG Environmental

Management Account: No action required (Governor's position)

Environmental Enforcement Vote: Alt. 3, 5B, adopted 12-4

Transfer Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Regulation from DSPPS to DNR

Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 12-4

Repeal Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Grant Program Vote: Alt. C2c,

adopted 16-0

Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative: Set aside.

Extension Recycling Education and Solid Waste Research and Experiments: Set aside.

Wisconsin Environmental Education Board: Set aside.

PECFA Program Sunset Vote: Adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion

PECFA Revenue Obligation Retirement Vote: Alt. 3, adopted 16-0

Aviation Fuel Petroleum Inspection Fee Refund Reestimate: Modification accepted by unanimous consent.

Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Program: No action required (Governor's position)

Additional Adopted Motions:

Motion #194 Vote: adopted 12-4. This motion allows exemptions for culvert permitting for replacement culvers that are the same size as the original culvert being replaced.

Motion #153 Vote: adopted 12-4. This motion applies to area-wide water quality management planning for Dane County.

Motion #149 Vote: Adopted 16-0. The JFC voted in favor of this motion that moves to direct the DNR to provide a grant in 2015-16 to support activities consistent with the Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission's implementation plan.

This information can also be found online if your individual office subscribes to the Finance portion of the Wheeler Report website.

**Next Executive Session: Thursday, March 7th**

***On the docket for Thursday:***

- Workforce Development -- Departmentwide
- Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
- Natural Resources -- Parks and Forestry
- Administration -- General Agency Provisions
- Justice

Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

**Krause, Caroline**

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**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 06, 2015 2:30 PM  
**To:** \*Legislative Assembly Republicans - Staff Members  
**Subject:** UPDATED: JFC Update 5.5.15 - DA Positions and Environmental Quality

**Importance:** High

**Staff:**

Please note: There is a typo in the JFC Update from yesterday.  
**GPR funds have been reduced by \$9.1 million, not \$19.1 million.**

I apologize for any confusion; please don't hesitate to contact the Nygren office with any questions.

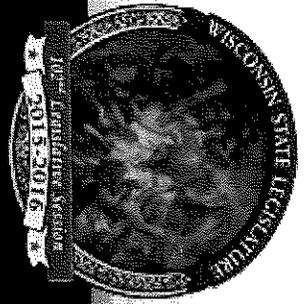
Best,

***Caroline Krause***

Office of State Representative John Nygren  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance  
89th Assembly District  
309 East, State Capitol  
608.266.2343

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**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2015 6:56 PM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 5.5.15 - DA Positions and Environmental Quality  
**Importance:** High



# Joint Committee on Finance Republican Update

May 5, 2015

## **GOPweb**

*JFC E-updates, talking points, columns, messaging and whatever else comes up during the budget process are posted on GOPweb.*

*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

## **Messaging**

### **UW System:**

This morning, the Co-chairs of the budget-writing Joint Finance Committee (JFC) announced that the Committee will not be passing the governor's public authority proposal for the UW System. The JFC, along with many other members of the Assembly Majority Caucus, believe that the System has demonstrated they are not yet ready to become a full public authority. The JFC will continue to have open dialogue with the System and other stakeholders in order to determine what flexibilities will be most helpful for the System this budget cycle. Some of these flexibilities may include items like procurement and eliminating superfluous mandates.

### **Additional JFC Talking Points:**

- A Darling/Czaja motion passed unanimously that allocates \$100,000 to the Wisconsin Well Women Program in the 2nd year of the biennium to increase low income women's accessibility to breast and cervical cancer prevention and treatment. Click here for the JFC Co-chairs' statement, and here for the American Cancer Society's release.
- In a bipartisan effort, the JFC voted to increase District Attorney (DA) positions and funding for these positions in Florence, Buffalo, and Pepin Counties.
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Today the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) completed its fourth executive session of the 2015-17 budget. The following is a list of issue areas taken up by the Committee and voted on:

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The JFC voted in favor of the governor's proposal to fund the projected cost of SSI state benefit payments and transfer the Pretorial Intoxicated Driver Intervention Grant Program from DOT to DHS. According to today's vote, DHS will now fund this grant program through their own allocated funds.

Additionally, the JFC supported the Governor's plan to transfer oversight of food, lodging, and recreational establishment regulations from DHS to DATCP. Moreover, committee members voted to freeze inspection fees until the next biennium. A motion also created a Food Safety Advisory Council to be appointed by DATCP.

Lastly, the Committee voted to transfer \$1,000,000 collected from the health care provider fees to the JFC appropriation to be used for mental health related bills later this session. The motion requires DHS to use any remaining money collected from the fee.

Supplemental Security Income (SSDI): No action required (Governor's position)

Transfer of Regulation Food, Lodging, and Recreational Establishments to DATCP

Vote: adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion

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Additional Adopted Motions:

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Transfer Read to Lead Grant Program Vote: Alt. 2 adopted, 14-2.

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No issue papers were prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

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Additionally, the Committee allocated funds for network and server management services to increase and ensure cybersecurity under the Office of the State Public Defender. The amount allocated by the JFC is \$672,000 less than originally proposed by the governor.

Increased Staffing for the Public Defender: No action required (Governor's position)

Conflicts Office Creation Vote: Alt. 3, adopted 12-4

Cybersecurity Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 12-4

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Today, the JFC did not take up issues regarding the Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative, the Extension Recycling Education and Solid Waste Research Experiments, or the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board. All three of these entities are part of the University of Wisconsin. These issue areas will be taken up when the Committee determines the best path forward with the UW.

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Environmental Management Account Overview: No action required (overview paper).  
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Contaminated Sediment Bonding Vote: Alt. A3, B2, adopted 12-4  
Municipal and County Recycling Grants: No action required (Governor's position)  
Convert Pollution Abatement Debt Service from GPR to SEG Environmental Management Account: No action required (Governor's position)  
Environmental Enforcement Vote: Alt. 3, 5B, adopted 12-4  
Transfer Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Regulation from DSPS to DNR  
Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 12-4  
Repeal Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Grant Program Vote: Alt. C2c, adopted 16-0  
Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative: Set aside.  
Extension Recycling Education and Solid Waste Research and Experiments: Set aside.  
Wisconsin Environmental Education Board: Set aside.  
PECEFA Program Sunset Vote: Adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion  
PECEFA Revenue Obligation Retirement Vote: Alt. 3, adopted 16-0  
Aviation Fuel Petroleum Inspection Fee Refund Reestimate: Modification accepted by unanimous consent.  
Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Program: No action required (Governor's position)

**Additional Adopted Motions:**

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**Next Executive Session: Thursday, March 7th**

***On the docket for Thursday:***

Workforce Development -- Departmentwide

Board of Commissioners of Public Lands

Natural Resources -- Parks and Forestry

Administration -- General Agency Provisions

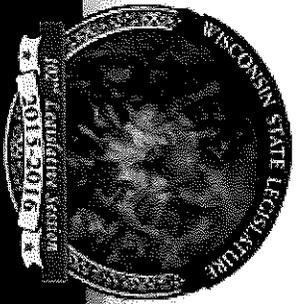
Justice

Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

**Krause, Caroline**

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**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 07, 2015 5:47 PM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 5.7.15 - DOJ Positions and Abuse Advocacy Centers  
**Importance:** High



# Joint Committee on Finance

## *Republican Update*

May 7, 2015

## **GOPweb**

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## **Messaging**

### **Revenue Numbers:**

- Revenue estimates by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau are right where they're expected to be.
- Wisconsin is on track to continue forward at a rate of between 4-5% revenue growth.
- Our budget priorities remain the same as they did prior to receiving the revenue estimates.
- Our top priority is still to invest in K-12 education.
- Despite a challenging economic forecast nationwide, our state is steadily moving in the right direction.
- We stand behind the decision to return over \$2 billion to WI taxpayers last budget. Now, middle class Wisconsinites have more money in their pockets to invest in our state's economy.
- We will continue to see economic improvements in our state moving forward, as we will continue our prudent fiscal budgeting practices to build a better, financially sustainable Wisconsin.

Click [here](#) for the JFC Co-chairs' statement on LFB's revenue estimates.

### **Additional JFC Talking Points:**

- JFC approved additional resources for DOJ to investigate officer-involved shootings.
- These resources include adding 4 additional positions and \$635,100 PR.
- The JFC restored funds to child advocacy centers to help children who are victims of abuse and/or assault.
- In addition to restoring these funds, the JFC added \$100,000 for court appointed special advocates. These advocates work with the advocacy centers to give young victims of abuse the care and protection they need.
- The JFC invested in the Wisconsin Fast Forward program to help close the skills gap and successfully train more employable people.

- The Committee voted to free up \$15 million GPR that was tied up in the proposed Eau Claire Confluence Arts Center project. Now, these funds can be used for higher priorities on our agenda, like K-12 education.

Click [here](#) for the Co-chairs' statement on DOJ funding and positions.

*So far this budget, we've:*

- Reduced all funds by \$32.5 million
- Reduced GPR spending by \$29 million
- Reduced the number of FTE positions by 33

### ***JFC Executive Session Recap***

Today the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) completed its fifth executive session of the 2015-17 budget. The following is a list of issue areas taken up by the Committee and voted on:

#### ***Workforce Development -- Departmentwide***

Today, the JFC voted to require DWD to make awards of at least \$3 million annually to school districts based on the current criteria as defined under the career and technical education incentive grants program.

Additionally, in a bipartisan effort, members of the JFC found a possible correction under the paper regarding the transfer of independent living grant funding to DHS. This correction directs DHS to award federal grants to both independent living centers and independent living service providers.

Expansion of Wisconsin Fast Forward Vote: Alt. A2, B2, C3, adopted 15-1

Transfer Independent Living Grant Funding to DHS Vote: Adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion

Transfer Veterans Employment Programs to DVA: Modification accepted by unanimous consent.

Elimination of Long-Term Vacancies Vote: Alt 2, adopted 16-0

Additional Adopted Motions:

Motion #219: Adopted 16-0. This motion requires DWD to work with DOC on an assessment initiative, teaching DOC staff how to use assessment tools to help assess incarcerated individuals to determine their educational and vocational needs and skills.

***Board of Commissioners of Public Lands***

The Committee voted to restore \$21,700 GPR annually that was accidentally deleted from the DNR aids in lieu of taxes appropriation.

Payment of Aids in Lieu of Taxes on Land Purchased from Department of Natural Resources Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 16-0

***Natural Resources -- Parks and Forestry***

Our state parks are some of the most premier in the nation, and when compared to our neighboring states, WI park fees cost less money. In a motion by Sen. Marklein, JFC took a market and economic-based approach to issues regarding our state parks' fees. The Committee approved raising admission and trail pass fees, camping fees, and campsite electric fees. The motion specifies that camping fees will remain less expensive for Wisconsin residents (between \$15-\$20/night) than non-residents (\$19-\$25/night). Additionally, this motion will help to fill campsites during slower times of the year, and make state parks more economically competitive during busy times.

Additionally, the JFC voted to restore \$2 million annually for state park, forestry, and riverway roads. Now, this funding will come from SEG instead of GPR.

Lastly, a motion offered by Rep. Czaja and Sen. Tiffany deletes 4 positions and specifies that an owner who intends to cut merchantable timber on managed forest land isn't required to obtain approval from the DNR. Additional conditions are spelled out in the motion attached after "Managed Forest Law Timber Cutting Notices."

Forestry Account Overview: Overview paper; no action necessary.

Parks Funding and Fee Increase Vote: adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion

State Park, Forestry, and Riverway Roads Vote: Alt. 2 b1, adopted 12-4

Parks and Southern Forests Operations Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 15-1

Urban Forestry Grant Eligibility Vote: Alt. A2, adopted 16-0

Managed Forest Law Timber Cutting Notices Vote: Adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion

Additional Adopted Motions:  
Motion #242: Adopted 12-4. This motion pertains to aspects of Wisconsin forestry and forestry management. Specifically, the motion details provisions for the Good Neighbor Authority program, Managed Forest Law (MFL), and Northern State Forests Master Plans. This motion also specifies that the DNR may not automatically enroll designated MFL land in a certified group, instead of automatically being enrolled in the certification and having to opt out.

***Administration -- General Agency Provisions***

Today, the Finance Committee voted to streamline and reduce the size of government by eliminating long term vacancies and those positions' funding.

Additionally, the JFC voted for DOA to continue to consult with the Eau Claire confluence project developers and the city of Eau Claire, and report to the Building Commission by the end of June, 2017 regarding their progress. In a motion, the Committee deleted the provision to provide \$15 million GPR intended for the confluence project.

Finally, the JFC voted to approve the governor's recommendation to extend the sunset date for the diesel truck idling reduction grant program. Now, the sunset date will be June 30, 2020. This vote also transfers the energy office to the Public Service Commission. The grant program and position, however, will remain at DOA.

Eliminate Long-Term Vacancies Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 12-4  
Eau Claire Confluence Development Project Vote: Adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion  
Office of Lean Government Vote: Adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion  
Prison Industries Procurement Pricing: No action taken  
Federal Surplus Property Program Vote: Alt. 5b, adopted 16-0  
Diesel Truck Idling reduction Grant Program: No action required (Governor's position).

**Additional Adopted Motions:**

Motion #205 Vote: Adopted 16-0. Certification for energy efficient building designer tax deduction.  
Motion #217 Vote: Adopted 15-1. Transfer of building program assessment revenue to general fund.

Motion #230: No action taken.  
Motion #248: No action taken.

### ***Justice***

During today's executive session, the JFC voted to provide DOJ with \$635,100 PR to support 4 additional positions to investigate officer-involved shootings. Wisconsin is the first and only state in the nation to be taking steps to protect people in this way.

Additionally, the Republican members of the Committee offered motions (outlined below under "Additional Adopted Motions") that restore funding for the Sexual Assault Victim Services Grant Program and allocates an additional \$100,000 for court appointed special advocate association. These motions will help children who have suffered or are suffering from abuse or assault receive the care and protection they need.

Eliminate Long-Term Vacancies and Federal Funding Reduction Vote: Alt. 2a, 4, adopted 16-0

State Justice Assistance Grants Vote: Adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion

Penalty Surcharge Fund Vote: Alt. B1, adopted 12-4

Justice Information System Surcharge Fund Vote: Alt. A2, B1, C1, adopted 12-4

Office of the Solicitor General Vote: Adopted 14-2 w/ 1 motion

Crime Victim Compensation Hearings and Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Hearings

Vote: Alt. 6, adopted 16-0

Interagency and Intra-Agency Assistance and Delinquent Obligation Collection Vote:

Alt. A1, B2, adopted 12-4

Law Enforcement Officer-Involved Death Investigations Vote: Adopted 16-0 w/ 1

motion

Crime Prevention Funding Board Vote: Adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion

### **Additional Adopted Motions:**

Motion #239 Vote: Adopted 16-0. Sexual assault victim services grant program.

Motion #199 Vote: Adopted 16-0. Marquette University police officers.

Motion #234 Vote: Adopted 16-0. Lafayette County Sheriff's Department.

Motion #246 Vote: Adopted, 16-0. Wisconsin court appointed special advocate association.

Click [here](#) for the Attorney General's statement on JFC actions.  
Click [here](#) for the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin release on JFC actions.

This information can also be found online if your individual office subscribes to the Finance portion of the [Wheeler Report](#) website.

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**Next Executive Session: Tuesday, May 12th**

***On the docket for Tuesday:***

- [Higher Educational Aids Board](#)
- [Educational Communications Board](#)
- [Office of State Employment Relations](#)
- [Health Services -- Institutions and Mental Health](#)
- [Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection](#)
- [Environmental Improvement Fund](#)

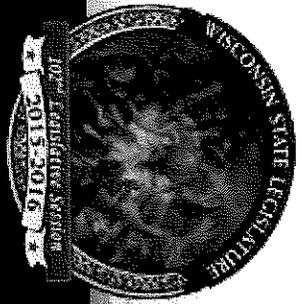
Joint Committee on Finance

"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

**Krause, Caroline**

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**From:** Rep. Nygren  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2015 5:07 PM  
**To:** Rep. Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 5.12.15 - Educational Communications Board  
**Importance:** High



# Joint Committee on Finance

## *Republican Update*

May 12, 2015

## **GOPweb**

*JFC E-updates, talking points, columns, messaging and whatever else comes up during the budget process are posted on GOPweb.*

*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

## **Messaging**

- JFC Republicans vote to support 2 teacher loan programs.
- The first is a New Teacher Loan Program (Motion #279).
- The second is the Minority Teacher Loan Program (Motion #286).
- Both motions help to recruit quality teachers for Milwaukee Public Schools.
- Democrats on the Committee did not vote in favor of these motions.
- JFC Republicans also voted to support the Educational Communications Board (ECB).
- The Committee restored over \$1.6 million to the ECB to fund infrastructure, the Wisconsin Media Lab, and 8.6 FTE positions.
- JFC Democrats did not support this action and ultimately voted against public radio.
- In a bipartisan effort, the Committee voted to allow crisis assessments to be performed over the phone or via telemedicine technology.
- This is very helpful for hospitals in rural areas that may not be near a mental health facility.

## **So far this budget, we've:**

- Reduced all funds by \$36.8 million
- Reduced GPR spending by \$35.8 million
- Reduced the number of FTE positions by 20.55

## **JFC Executive Session Recap**

Today the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) completed its sixth executive session of the 2015-17 budget. The following is a list of issue areas taken up by the Committee and voted on:

### **Higher Educational Aids Board**

The Wisconsin Covenant Scholars Grant was created by the Doyle administration; however, it was never a fully funded, sustainable program. The JFC voted to fulfill the commitment of the program for the students currently enrolled. The program will phase out as enrolled students graduate.

Minnesota-Wisconsin Student Reciprocity: Held over until action on UW System.  
Wisconsin Covenant Scholars Grant Vote: Alt. A2, B1, adopted 16-0

Additional Adopted Motions:

Motion #279 Vote: Adopted 12-4. This motion deletes the current Teacher Education Loan Program and creates a New Teacher Loan Program. This program's recipients would have the principal and interest of their student loans forgiven at a rate of 25% per year each year the recipient qualifies.

Motion #286 Vote: Adopted 12-4. This motion supports the Minority Teacher Loan Program and specifies that qualifying resident minority undergraduate students could receive between \$2,000-\$5,000 per year.

[Click here](#) for the Co-chairs' statement.

#### ***Educational Communications Board (ECB)***

The JFC voted to restore \$1,647,3000 annual funding for the ECB. This funding will be used to retain 8.6 positions for field engineering, operations center, and administration, as well as the Wisconsin Media Lab. This will allow the ECB to continue paying for the system that is used for Amber Alerts.

GPR Base Budget Reduction Vote: Alt. A4, B2, C1, D1, E2, adopted 12-4

#### ***Office of State Employment Relations***

The JFC voted to transfer the Office of State Employment Relations to a new Division of Personnel Management under DOA. With this transfer, the Committee voted to provide 3 additional PR positions to DOA for this Division.

Position Reductions: No motion offered; governor's position stands.

Eliminate Office of State Employment Relations and Transfer Functions to the

Department of Administration Vote: Alt. 1, 2, adopted 12-4

#### ***Department of Health Services -- Institutions and Mental Health***

The JFC voted to allow crisis assessments to be performed over the phone or via telemedicine technology. This is very helpful for hospitals in rural areas that may not be

near a mental health facility. The Committee also approved the governor's recommendation to provide \$1.5 million PR in 2015-16 for crisis system grants.

Additionally, the JFC voted to ensure DHS consults with the WI Counties Association and other mental health stakeholders prior to developing a method for distributing mental health service funds. DHS must then have their proposal approved through the JFC passive review process, at which time the JFC may approve or modify the proposal.

Contracted Mental Health Services, and DHS Institutions (Paper #375) See following link:

Correction to Paper #375 Vote: Modification accepted by unanimous consent.

Mental Health Crisis Service Grants and Emergency Detention Procedures Vote:

Adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion

Consolidate Community Mental Health Programs Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 16-0

Additional Adopted Motions:

Motion to remove item #11: Office of Children's Mental Health, adopted 16-0

#### ***Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection***

The JFC voted to provide one-time funding of \$675,000 SEG each year of the biennium for county conservation staffing grants from the nonpoint account of the environmental fund.

The Committee also voted to delete 12.3 FTE positions that have been vacant for more than a year. Moreover, the JFC voted to delete 6.05 FTE positions for regulation of ozone-depleting refrigerants.

Finally, the Committee voted to allocate funding for grants under the targeted runoff management (TRM) and notice of discharge/notice of intent (NOD/NOI) grant programs. These programs, along with urban nonpoint source (UNPS) and municipal flood control (MFC) grants help to keep runoff from farms and the agriculture industry under control.

[Click here](#) for Clean Wisconsin's release.

[Click here](#) for the WI Farm Bureau's release.

[Click here](#) for the WI Land and Water Association's release.

Standard Budget Adjustments -- State Agriculture Laboratory Vote: Adopted 15-0 (Knudson absent)  
Nonpoint Account Management and Conservation Staffing Vote: Adopted 11-4 w/ 1 motion (Knudson absent)  
Long-Term Vacancy Reductions Vote: Alt. 3a, adopted 11-4 (Knudson absent)  
Fertilizer Research Fees and the Fertilizer Research Council Vote: Alt. 4, adopted 15-0 (Knudson absent)  
Producer-Led Watershed Grants Vote: Alt. 1, 2b, 3a, adopted 15-0 (Knudson absent)  
Ozone-Depleting Refrigerants Positions Vote: Alt. 3, adopted 11-4 (Knudson absent)  
Nonpoint Source Program Grants and Contracts Vote: Adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion  
Nonpoint Source Program Bonding Vote: 2a, b, adopted 12-4

#### ***Environmental Improvement Fund***

The JFC voted to approve an increase in general obligation authority of nearly \$5.5 million for the safe drinking water loan program. This increase is based on estimated federal funding of \$37.7 million over 2 years.

The Committee also voted to increase the state subsidy for clean water fund projects by decreasing the municipal interest rate from 75% to 70% of the market interest rate.

Lastly, the JFC voted to expand eligibility for financial assistance under the safe drinking water program. It now includes private owners of a community water system for a municipality. Moreover, this vote prohibits the DNR and DOA from awarding principal forgiveness to private owners for a community water system or nonprofit noncommunity water system that are not systems that serve a municipality.

Safe Drinking Water Loan Program Bonding Authority Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 14-2  
Program Structure Changes Vote: A1, B1, C2 (striking the 2nd sentence), D2d, adopted 12-4  
Clean Water Fund Eligibility for Connection Laterals Vote: Alt. 3, adopted 12-4  
Clean Water Fund Eligibility for Unsewered Areas: No action taken; governor's position prevails  
Safe Drinking Water Loan Eligibility for Certain Private-Owned Systems Vote: Alt. 2, 3, adopted 16-0

This information can also be found online if your individual office subscribes to the Finance portion of the Wheeler Report website.

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**Next Executive Session: Thursday, May 14th**

***On the docket for Thursday:***

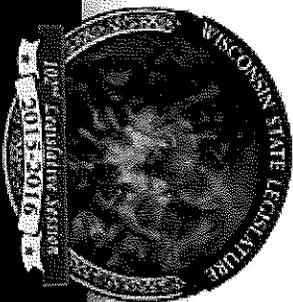
- Administration -- Hearings and Appeals
- Administration -- Information Technology
- Investment Board
- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board
- Children and Families -- Departmentwide
- Children and Families -- Children and Families
- Children and Families -- Economic Support and Child Care
- Children and Families -- Child Support
- Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Direct Aid Payments
- Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Property Tax Credits
- Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Property Taxation
- Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Local Revenue Options

Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

**Krause, Caroline**

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**From:** Rep. Nygren  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2015 8:33 PM  
**To:** Rep. Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 5.14.15 - DCF & Shared Revenue and Tax Relief  
**Importance:** High



# Joint Committee on Finance

## *Republican Update*

May 14, 2015

## **GOPweb**

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## **Messaging**

### **Long Term Care Announcement:**

- Today, Republicans on the JFC announced the Committee will not approve the governor's proposed plan for long term care.
- Instead, the JFC is working with stakeholders and the public to formulate a plan with specific parameters for the Department of Health Services (DHS).
- Parameters include, but are not limited to, the following:
  1. Require public and stakeholder input before any changes are made.
  2. Require self-directed care with budget authority, to be defined in statute.
  3. Require a regional model with multiple Integrated Health Agencies (IHA) per region.
  4. Require an independent actuarial study to set rates.
  5. Require the acceptance of "any willing provider" for a multi-year transition.
  6. Preserve ADRC services.
  7. Require final approval of any waiver application by the Joint Finance Committee before submission to the Federal Government.

- This plan requires public input, includes a self-directed option, and gives patients choice between competing providers. Integration of care provides better care for customers and doctors, as well as a better value for taxpayers.
- Once DHS comes up with a plan that fits within the parameters set by the JFC, DHS will come back before the JFC for approval of their plan before submission to the Federal Government and, finally, implementation.
- The Committee has not voted on these issue areas yet; these votes will be taking place in a JFC executive session possibly as soon as next week.

Click [here](#) for the JFC Republicans' press release.

Click [here](#) for the AARP press release.

Click [here](#) for the Wisconsin Long-Term Care Coalition press release.

### **Additional JFC Highlights:**

- There was bipartisan support for Rep. Czajka's [TEACH budget motion](#), which provides more money for rural schools and digital learning. Click [here](#) for Rep. Czajka's press release.

- The JFC adopted a number a provisions that increase funding for programs that help victims of abuse and sex trafficking.
- The Committee increased funding for domestic abuse grants by \$5 million GPR.
- JFC increased funding for services for victims of sex trafficking by \$2 million GPR.
- The Committee adopted a motion that increased funding for post-adoption resource centers by \$225,000 GPR.
- JFC also supported motions that help low income families via temporary assistance for needy families (TANF).
- The JFC supported an increase in funds from the TANF block grant to be used by DCF to support general education development testing and preparation to TANF eligible individuals.
- The Committee unanimously supported a motion that provides \$41,600 annually to DCF from the TANF block grant to support adult literacy grants.
- The JFC unanimously supported another motion that provides \$500,000 annually under TANF for a grant to the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation (WTAF).
- WTAF is to use these funds to distribute annual awards of up to \$75,000 to programs that provide civil legal services to low income families with civil legal needs related to domestic abuse and sexual abuse.

*So far this budget, we've:*

- Reduced all funds by \$71.4 million
- Reduced GPR spending by \$48.9 million

### ***JFC Executive Session Recap***

Today the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) completed its seventh executive session of the 2015-17 budget. The following is a list of issue areas taken up by the Committee and voted on:

#### ***Administration -- Hearings and Appeals***

The JFC supported the governor's recommendation to eliminate DOA's hearings and

appeals general program operations appropriation and associated funding and position authority.

Hearings and Appeals Consolidation and Funding: No motion offered; Governor's position stands

***Administration -- Information Technology***

The JFC voted to approve the governor's recommendation to provide over \$2.5 million PR in 15-16 and over \$2.6 million PR in 16-17 to DOA's IT services to state agencies appropriation to purchase and provide IT security services and to manage a security awareness training program.

Moreover, the JFC unanimously passed a motion offered by Rep. Czaja that provides funding for rural schools and digital learning.

Information Technology Security Expenditure Authority: No motion offered; Governor's position stands

Information Technology Positions and Equipment Transfer Authority Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 16-0

Consolidation of Telecommunications and IT Appropriations Vote: Alt. 2C, adopted 12-4

Technology for Educational Achievement Program Vote: Adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion

***Investment Board***

No issue papers have been prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

***Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board***

No issue papers have been prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

***Children and Families -- Departmentwide***

The JFC followed the recommendation of the administration and did not provide funding for the Milwaukee offender re-entry demonstration program. They decreased funding by \$978,000 PR annually to remove revenue that was mistakenly included into DCF's program revenue reestimate.

Milwaukee Offender Re-entry Program Vote: Alt. 1, adopted 12-4  
Position and Funding Realignment: Modification accepted by unanimous consent

**Additional Adopted Motions:**

Motion #344 Vote: Adopted 13-3. This motion is in regards to pay-for-performance contracts. It modifies the governor's recommendation to require all agencies to examine current programs and submit a plan to the JFC that identifies existing government expenditures that could be decreased or programs that could be improved through the use of pay-for-performance contracts.

***Children and Families -- Children and Families***

The JFC voted to restructure the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare as the Division of Milwaukee Child Welfare and authorized an unclassified administrator position beginning in the 2nd year of the biennium.

Additionally, the Committee voted unanimously in favor of the governor's proposal on two papers: 1) To increase funding for domestic abuse grants by \$5 million GPR in 2016-17, and 2) To increase funding for services for victims of sex trafficking by \$2 million GPR in 2016-17.

Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare - Restructuring Vote: Adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion

Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare - Staffing Vote: Alt. A1, B1, C2, adopted 12-4

Milwaukee Child Welfare Aids Vote: Alt. A2c, B1, C2, adopted 14-2

Out-of-Home Care Extension: Modification accepted by unanimous consent

Domestic Abuse Services Vote: Alt. 1, adopted 16-0

Services for Victims of Sex Trafficking Vote: Alt. 1, adopted 16-0

**Additional Adopted Motions:**

Motion #329 Vote: Adopted 15-1. This motion requires DCF to establish a plan to engage and utilize non-profit volunteer programs to provide temporary host families for children whose parent/legal guardian has legally and voluntarily agreed to participate in such a program as an alternative to foster care.

Motion #343 Vote: Adopted 16-0. This motion specifies that DCF may distribute funds for the Brighter Future Grant Initiative to an organization to provide a program that accomplishes a number of criteria.

Motion #372 Vote: Adopted 12-4. This motion increases funding for post-adoption resource centers by \$225,000 GPR in 2016-17.

***Children and Families -- Economic Support and Child Care***

The JFC modified the governor's recommendation such that statutorily required notice and opportunity to rectify would not be required for actions predicated upon W-2 financial and non-financial eligibility criteria (such as a child becoming 18 years old or the participant moving out of the state). Actions predicated on sanctions which would terminate a participant's eligibility or reduce a participant's benefits by 20% or more (such as non-participation in an employment position or non-cooperation with child support requirements) would require notice and opportunity to rectify.

Revised Estimates for TANF-Related Programs: Modification accepted by unanimous consent

Wisconsin Works Lifetime Benefit Limit: No motion offered; Governor's position stands

W-2 Sanctions Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 12-4

Work Program Wage Subsidies: No motion offered; Governor's position stands

State Administration of Wisconsin Works and Other TANF-Related Programs Vote:

Alt. A1, B5, adopted 16-0

TANF Funding for the Earned Income Tax Credit Vote: Alt. 3C, adopted 12-4

**Additional Adopted Motions:**

Motion #342 Vote: Adopted 16-0. This motion provides an additional \$75,000 annually for grants to the Wisconsin Chapter of the Boys and Girls Club of America to fund programs that improve social, academic, and employment skills of eligible youth.

Motion #345 Vote: Adopted 16-0. This motion authorizes DCF to terminate child support and spousal maintenance services to an individual if there is no longer a current child support or maintenance order and the arrearage is either less than \$500 or unenforceable.

Motion #349 Vote: Adopted 16-0. This motion provides funds from federal temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) block grant to DCF to support general education development testing and preparation to eligible individuals.

Motion #365 Vote: Adopted 16-0. This motion provides \$41,600 annually to DCF from the TANF block grant to support adult literacy grants.

Motion #370 Vote: Adopted 16-0. This motion provides \$500,000 annually under TANF for a grant to the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation (WTAF). WTAF is to

use these funds to distribute annual awards of up to \$75,000 to programs that provide civil legal services to low income families with civil legal needs related to domestic abuse and sexual abuse.

***Children and Families -- Child Support***

No issue papers have been prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

***Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Direct Aid Payments***

The following two papers are both modifications. The first is a decrease in estimated payments by over \$7.6 million GPR, and the second is an increase in estimated aid payments by \$1.6 million GPR.

State Aid for Tax Exempt Computers, Cash Registers, and Fax Machines: Modification accepted by unanimous consent

Public Utility Aid -- Sum Sufficient Reestimate: Modification accepted by unanimous consent

***Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Property Tax Credits***

The JFC agreed to hold this section open in order to take up the issue regarding the school levy tax credit with issues relating to the Department of Instruction (DPI).

School Levy Tax Credit Increase: Paper held over to be taken up with DPI issues

Homestead Tax Credit Reestimate: Modification accepted by unanimous consent

Farmland Preservation Per-Acre Credit Reestimate: Modification accepted by unanimous consent.

First Dollar Credit and Reestimate: No motions offered; Governor's position stands.

***Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Property Taxation***

The JFC voted to require the tax bill to include the total amount of tax levied in the current year and the amount of tax levied on the property in the current year -- both of which are the result of a referendum to exceed the school revenue limit, the technical college revenue limit, or the county and municipal levy limit on a non-permanent basis.

Property Tax Bill Information Vote: Adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion.

Additional Adopted Motions (Most of these are the results of Budget Buddy requests):  
Motion #299 Vote: Adopted 12-4. This motion creates a new method for certain towns

contiguous to a third class city to incorporate as a village. The only municipality it would affect is the town of Windsor, which is just north of Madison in Dane County. The required procedures are listed in the language of the motion.

Motion #301 Vote: Adopted 16-0. This motion moves to create a levy limit adjustment allowing a political subdivision to increase its allowable levy by the amount on unused levy authority from prior years.

Motion #316 Vote: Adopted 16-0. This motion modifies the levy limitation authorized under current law relating to the adjustment for service transfers.

Motion #367 Vote: Adopted 15-1. This motion modifies current law provisions related to special assessments, municipal public utility charges, and sewerage service charges that are delinquent or in arrears by changing their characterization from special tax to special assessment or special charge.

Motion #369 Vote: Adopted 12-4. This motion relates to public works contracts entered into by a technical college district board, public library system board, county, town, village, or second-, third-, or fourth-class city.

Motion #378 Vote: Adopted 15-1. This motion specifies that a public or municipal utility could only charge for one parcel of property when billing for a fire protection fee in specific circumstances.

Motion #383 Vote: Adopted 16-0. This motion modifies the expenditure restraint program's eligibility requirement pertaining to municipal budgets by clarifying that the adjustment for contracted services serves to another governmental unit in the year in which the municipality incurs those costs.

#### ***Shared Revenue and Tax relief -- Local Revenue Options***

No issue papers have been prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

#### **Additional Adopted Motion:**

Motion #339 Vote: Adopted 12-4. This motion is specific to the City of Rhineland and provides the city an exemption to the requirement that 40% of their equalized value be used by tourism-related retailers in order to declare themselves a premier report area. This motion was also the result of a Budget Buddy request.

This information can also be found online if your individual office subscribes to the Finance portion of the [Wheeler Report](#) website.

**Next Executive Sessions: Tuesday, May 19th & Thursday, May 21st**

***On the docket for Tuesday, May 19th:***

Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Budget Management and Compensation Reserves  
employee Trust Funds  
Drug Screening and Testing  
Corrections -- Departmentwide  
Corrections -- Adult Corrections  
Corrections -- Community Corrections  
Corrections -- Juvenile Corrections  
Public Instruction -- General School Aids and Revenue Limits  
Public Instruction -- Categorical Aids  
Public Instruction -- Choice, Charter, and Open Enrollment  
Public Instruction -- District Operations and Standards  
Public Instruction -- Administrative and Other Funding

***On the docket for Thursday, May 21st:***

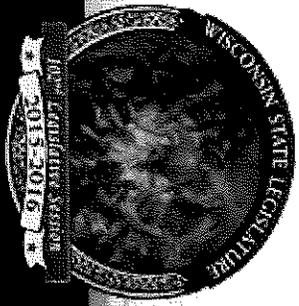
Health Services -- Departmentwide  
Government Accountability Board  
Financial Institutions and Professional Standards  
Financial Institutions  
Safety and Professional Services -- Agencywide Provisions  
Safety and Professional Services -- Program Transfers  
Forward Wisconsin Development Authority/Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation  
Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority  
Transportation -- Transportation Finance  
Transportation -- Local Transportation Aid  
Transportation -- Local Transportation Assistance  
Transportation -- State Highway Program

Joint Committee on Finance  
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**Krause, Caroline**

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**From:** Rep. Nygren  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2015 1:33 AM  
**To:** Rep. Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 5.19.15 - DPI  
**Importance:** High



# Joint Committee on Finance

## *Republican Update*

May 19, 2015

## **GOPweb**

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## **Messaging**

### ***K-12 Education Highlights:***

- JFC restored funding of \$150 per pupil in the first year of the biennium.
- JFC increased funding by an additional \$100 per pupil in the second year (\$250 per pupil total in second year).
- That's an investment in public education that totals over \$200 million over the biennium.
- Over \$100 million in funding comes from the school levy credit. The rest of the funding comes from what JFC has already saved this budget season paired with budget reprioritization.
- Property taxes will not be adversely affected by increased K-12 funding.
- This investment will ensure WI students continue to have access to quality education.

Click [here](#) for the Co-chairs' statement on K-12 education.

### ***Additional JFC Highlights:***

- The JFC increased funding to DCF for drug screening, testing and treatment costs.
- The Committee continued to reduce the size and scope of government by reducing the number of long-term vacant FTE positions.
- The JFC voted to provide funds for an opioid addiction treatment pilot program under DOC.

### ***JFC Executive Session Recap***

Today the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) completed its eighth executive session of the 2015-17 budget. The following is a list of issue areas taken up by the Committee and voted on:

**Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority**

No issue papers have been prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau

**Medical College of Wisconsin**

No issue papers have been prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau

**Budget Management and Compensation Reserves**

The JFC voted to approve the governor's recommendation to retain the annual \$65 million statutory reserve under current law. Moreover, the Committee voted to set the statutory reserve at \$65 million in 2016-17 and thereafter.

Required General Fund Statutory Reserve Vote: Alt. A1, B2, adopted 12-4  
Limit on Interfund Cashflow Borrowing: No motions offered, Governor's position stands

**Additional Adopted Motions:**

Motion #417 Vote: Adopted 13-3. This motion specifies that beginning with the 2017-19 biennium, state agencies submit their requests under three scenarios: 1) No increase in funding, 2) cost-to-continue funding, and 3) increased funding. This change to budgeting is the result of a Budget Buddy request.

Motion #444 Vote: Adopted 16-0. This motion modifies current law governing transfers of excess general fund revenues to the budget stabilization fund to specify that if a transfer from the general fund to the budget stabilization fund would be made under current law, those moneys would instead be retained in the general fund and the statutory reserve would be increased correspondingly.

**Employee Trust Funds**

The JFC voted to approve the governor's recommendation to provide \$2,000 annual payments to eligible state employees who elect to not receive state health care coverage. However, the Committee also provided that certain state employees would not be eligible to receive this annual payment in lieu of state group health insurance coverage. Those who are ineligible include state employees who are married to or in a domestic partnership with another state employee who is already covered under the state insurance plan.

The JFC also voted to require the Group Insurance Board (GIB) to submit any proposed changes to the state group health insurance program to the Joint Committee on Employment Relations (JCOER) by April 1st annually.

Annual Payments to Eligible Employees in Lieu of Health Insurance Coverage Vote: Adopted 12-4 w/ 1 motion

Compensation Reserves and Reserves for Health Insurance Vote: Adopted 14-2 w/ 1 motion

Transfer of Procurement Position to the Department of Administration Vote: Alt. 2, 3, adopted 16-0

Administration of Optional Insurance Plans Vote: Alt. 3, adopted 12-4

**Additional Adopted Motions:**

Motion #423 Vote: Adopted 16-0. This motion provides that the six members of the Group Insurance Board (GIB) who are appointed by the governor to two-year terms under current law would now be appointed to the Board only with the advice and consent of the Senate.

### ***Drug Screening and Testing***

The JFC voted in favor of an omnibus motion (described below) that covers issues described in the following papers:

Work Experience Program Drug Testing and Treatment

Drug Screens and Tests as a Condition of Eligibility for Adults without Dependent Children in BadgerCare Plus

FoodShare Employment and Training Drug Testing

Drug Testing for UI Program

**Omnibus Motion:**

Motion #455 Vote: Adopted 11-4 (Loudenbeck absent)

This motion moves to modify the bill as follows:

- Create an annual appropriation and provide \$250,000 GPR in 2015-16 and 2016-17 to DCF for drug screening, testing and treatment costs. Additionally, the motion requires DCF to pay for all costs of substance abuse treatment not otherwise covered by MA, private insurance, or other coverage.

- Before submitting an amendment to the current childless adults waiver agreement that would permit drug testing, the motion requires DHS to submit a report to the JFC that summarizes provisions and estimates the fiscal effect of that proposed amendment. Additionally, if CMS approves an amendment to the current childless adults waiver agreement to permit drug testing, a report must be submitted to the JFC that summarized the provisions and estimates the fiscal effect of the CMS-approved amendment.
- This motion deleted provisions in the bill related to the screening and testing of FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET) participants. Instead, DHS will promulgate rules to develop and implement drug screening and treatment as described in 2015 AB 191.
- The motion modifies the governor's recommendation regarding drug testing for certain UI claimants. Stipulations of this modification are specifically noted in the motion text.

***Corrections -- Departmentwide***

In addition to deleting \$495,000 GPR, 9.10 GPR positions, and 35.6 PR positions, the JFC voted to delete over \$1.9 million in funding for the aforementioned PR positions.

The Committee also voted to approve the governor's recommendation to provide base budget funding for overtime under standard budget adjustments and provide GPR and PR funds as an overtime supplement.

Overtime Funding: Governor's position stands

Risk Management Vote: Alt. 2B, adopted 12-4

Eliminating Long-Term Vacancies Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 16-0

***Corrections -- Adult Corrections***

The JFC voted to reestimate the average daily population in adult correctional facilities for male inmates and provided additional funding associated with non-food costs for the Sturtevant Transitional Facility and contract bed funding.

Moreover, the JFC voted to provide GPR for population-related funding as a result of revised prison projections regarding the rising number of female inmates.

The Committee voted to reduce the number of third shift tower guard staff at state correctional institutions from 60 down to 6.

Separate from Rep. Nygren's Heroin, Opiate, Prevention and Education (HOPE) Agenda from last session, the JFC voted to provide funds for an opioid addiction treatment pilot program under DOC. By January 1, 2016, the department is to come back before the JFC for a passive review with a plan and more details about how this pilot program will be implemented.

Lastly, the Committee voted to change the Prison Industries procurement pricing rule. Now, Prison Industries may offer products/services through competitive bidding or competitive sealed proposals as long as the price is comparable to similar products/services.

Adult Correctional Facility Populations -- Male Population and Inflationary Costs and Prison Contract Bed Funding Vote: Alt. 1, adopted 16-0

Adult Correctional Facility Populations -- Females: Female Housing Unit Vote: Alt.

A1, B2, C2, adopted 15-0 (Erpenbach absent)

Reduce Third Shift Tower Staffing Positions Vote: Adopted 13-3 w/ 1 motion

Opioid Addiction Treatment Pilot Program Vote: Adopted 16-0 w/ 1 motion

Correctional Officer Pre-Service Training Standards Board Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 16-0

Prison Industries Procurement Pricing Vote: Alt 1, adopted 16-0

### ***Corrections -- Community Corrections***

The Committee approved the governor's recommendations on the following three issues: 1) Allocate additional funding annually for GPS tracking on serious child sex offenders, 2) Delete the statutory language authorizing DOC to set supervision fees at varying rates and certain exemptions. 3) Delete the provision requiring funding for certain community reintegration services.

The JFC voted unanimously to approve the governor's recommendation regarding the new interstate compact applications appropriation with the stipulation that it is an annual, rather than continuing, appropriation.

GPS Tracking Funding: Governor's position stands

Community Corrections Supervision Fees: Governor's position stands

New Interstate Compact Applications Appropriation Vote: Alt. 3, adopted 16-0

Remove Requirement for Funding for Certain Community Reintegration Services:  
Governor's position stands

***Corrections -- Juvenile Corrections***

The JFC approved the governor's recommendations regarding the following two papers:  
1) Reduce the \$17 per day add-on to the daily rate for juvenile correctional facilities to a \$6 add-on, and 2) Modify statutory law by repealing references to the corrective sanctions program and aftercare services, replacing the references with juvenile "community supervision."

Additionally, the Committee voted to effectively reduce the statutory daily rate for corrective sanctions by -\$9 in 2015-16.

Juvenile Population Estimates, Population and Inflationary Costs, Statutory Daily Rates, Serious Juvenile Offenders: Modification accepted by unanimous consent

Add-On To Statutory Daily Rate: Governor's position stands

Statutory Daily Rates -- Corrective Sanctions, Agency PR Lapse Requirement Vote:

Alt. 2, adopted 12-4

Transfer Juvenile Community-Based Delinquency-Related Services and Youth Aids to Children and Families Vote: Alt. 2, adopted 16-0

Juvenile Correctional Community Supervision Services: Governor's position stands

***Omnibus Motion on the Department of Public Instruction***

The JFC voted in favor of an omnibus motion (described below) that covers DPI issues found in the remainder of this update:

Motion #457 Vote: Adopted 12-4

Highlights of this motion include the following:

- Approve the governor's recommendation to provide over \$108 million in 2016-17 for general school aids.
- Modify of the governor's proposal by deleting the creation of a payment on the fourth Monday of June, beginning in 2017 and instead set the credit distribution at \$853 million in 2016-17 and thereafter.
- Provide nearly \$127 million GPR in 2016-17 for per pupil aid payments based on 2015-16 enrollments. Moreover, the motion specifies alternatives that state

- this item would fund \$150 per pupil aid in 2015-16 and \$250 in per pupil aid in 2016-17 on an ongoing basis; the increase is built into the base.
- Provide additional GPR funds beginning in 2016-17 in a new appropriation for special education transitions incentive grants.
  - Provide \$5 million GPR in 2016-17 for high cost special education aid for school districts, Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESA), County Children with Disability Education Boards (CCDEB), and independent charter schools.
  - This motion supports an expansion of the statewide school choice program.
  - This motion employs the open enrollment model for choice schools in the statewide program.
  - Provide that a private school participating in a private school choice program can employ a teacher aide who has been granted a high school diploma by the administrator of a home-based private educational program.
  - Specifies that a private school participating in the statewide choice program would be required to have been in continual operation as a private school since May 1, 2013.
  - Creation of a special needs voucher program beginning in 2016-17.
  - Require a school board to permit a pupil who resides in the school district to participate in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities on the same basis and extent as pupils enrolled in the district.
  - Require DPI to review and approve a summative assessment system for federal and state accountability purposes beginning in 2015-16.
  - Allow districts to select assessment of reading readiness.
  - Require a civics assessment for high school graduation beginning in 2016-17.
  - Relating to alternative teacher licenses, this motion requires DPI to grant an initial teaching licenses to teach a technical education subject, including technology education or any technology related occupation, to qualified individuals.
  - Create an Opportunity Schools and Partnership program (OSPP) within Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) under the management and control of a Commissioner.

***Public Instruction -- General School Aids and Revenue Limits***

State Support for K-12 Education, General Schools Aids, and Revenue Limit Per Pupil  
Adjustment  
Integration Aid/Chapter 220 Program

***Public Instruction -- Categorical Aids***

Per Pupil Aid  
Sparsity Aid  
High Cost Transportation Aid  
Cooperative Educational Service Agencies

***Public Instruction -- Choice, Charter, and Open Enrollment***

Private School Choice Program Expansion  
Charter School Oversight Board  
Contract Requirements for Independent "2r" Charter Schools

***Public Instruction -- District Operations and Standards***

Educational Standards  
School and School District Accountability Reports

***Public Instruction -- Administrative and Other Funding***

Elimination of Long-Term Vacancies  
Pupil Assessments  
Alternative Assessments  
Alternative Teaching Licenses

This information can also be found online if your individual office subscribes to the Finance portion of the Wheeler Report website.

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***Next Executive Session: Thursday, May 21st***

*On the docket for Thursday, May 21st:*

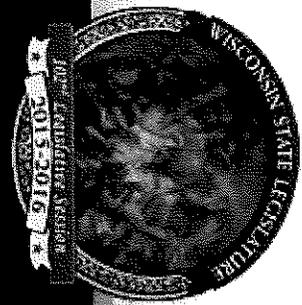
Government Accountability Board  
Financial Institutions and Professional Standards  
Financial Institutions  
Safety and Professional Services -- Agencywide Provisions  
Safety and Professional Services -- Program Transfers  
Forward Wisconsin Development Authority/Wisconsin Economic Development  
Corporation  
Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority  
Health Services -- Departmentwide  
Health Services -- Medical Assistance -- General (Including SeniorCare)

Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

Krause, Caroline

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**From:** Rep. Nygren  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2015 9:48 PM  
**To:** Rep. Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 5.21.15 -- Republicans Save SeniorCare  
**Importance:** High



# Joint Committee on Finance

## *Republican Update*

May 21, 2015

## **GOPweb**

*JFC E-updates, talking points, columns, messaging and whatever else comes up during the budget process are posted on GOPweb.*

*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

## **Messaging**

### **SeniorCare**

- With today's decision, SeniorCare will be held harmless -- funding will be maintained at the current level.
- The JFC voted to eliminate the governor's proposal to require SeniorCare participants to purchase a Medicare Part D plan.
- The JFC also voted to reject the governor's proposal to reduce SeniorCare funding by nearly \$94 million over the biennium.
- Additionally, the JFC froze the program's enrollment fees and co-pays at the current levels.
- This helps to ensure that seniors who utilize the program will continue to be able to afford their prescription medications.

Click [here](#) for the Co-chairs' statement.

### **Additional JFC Highlights:**

- Following the governor's call to delete the WEDC/WHEDA merger and the DFI/DSPS merger from the proposed budget, the JFC followed suit. The two mergers have been removed from the budget by the Committee.
- The JFC provided funds for a grant via WEDC for the Northcentral Technical College to be used to purchase commercial stoves, ovens, and other equipment for its Culinary Arts program and business incubator facilities.
- The Committee funded a grant via WEDC for the Marathon County Economic Development Corporation to be used for a revolving loan fund to support minority-owned businesses in Marathon County.
- The JFC allocated funds for a grant via WEDC for Prosperity Southwest Wisconsin for a new revolving loan program in the southwest region of the state to promote regional economic development.
- The Committee provided funds for fraud protection -- specifically for the procurement and implementation of an advanced analytics system for the purpose of minimizing provider and beneficiary fraud in the state's MA program.

- The JFC expanded the enhanced dental services reimbursement pilot program to include Marathon County.

### ***JFC Executive Session Recap***

Today the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) completed its ninth executive session of the 2015-17 budget. The following is a list of issue areas taken up by the Committee and voted on:

#### ***Government Accountability Board***

No issue papers have been prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

#### ***Omnibus Motion -- DFI, DSPS, WEDC, WHEDA***

Motion #494 Vote: Adopted 4-12

This motion covers issue areas focused on the topics below relating to the Department of Financial Institutions, the Department of Safety and Professional Services, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, and the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority. Highlights of this motion include the following:

- Deletes both the DFI/DSPS merger (DFIPS) and the WEDC/WHEDA merger (FWDA) from the budget.
- Deletes long term vacancies at DSPS that have been vacant for 1 year or more.
- Transfers the Veterinary Examining Board (VEB) to DATCP.
- Maintains the VEB's current authority of the elder-adult-at-risk agency to refer alleged cases of abuse by veterinary professional to the regulating department.
- Transfers the regulation authority for tattooists, tattoo establishments, body piercers, body piercing establishments, and tanning facilities from DHS to DSPS.
- Provides \$250,000 GPR to WEDC for a grant to the Midwest Energy Research Consortium (M-WERC) to be used to support the growth, training, and research and development of private companies in the energy, power, and control sector headquartered in Wisconsin.
- Provides \$250,000 GPR to WEDC for a grant to Prosperity Southwest Wisconsin for a new revolving loan program in the southwest region of the state

- to promote regional economic development. This was the result of a Budget Buddy request.
- Provides \$150,000 GPR to WEDC for a grant to the Northcentral Technical College to be used to purchase commercial stoves, ovens, and other equipment for its Culinary Arts program and business incubator facilities. This was the result of a Budget Buddy request.
  - Provides \$100,000 GPR to WEDC for a grant to the Marathon County Economic Development Corporation to be used for a revolving loan fund to support minority-owned businesses in Marathon County.

\*Item #38 (Automatic Sprinkler Systems in Multifamily Dwellings) has been removed from Motion #494 by unanimous consent\*

***Financial Institutions and Professional Standards***

No issue papers have been prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

***Financial Institutions***

Eliminate Long-Term Vacancies  
GPR-Earned Reestimate

***Safety and Professional Services -- Agencywide Provisions***

Standard Budget Adjustments  
Increase Credential Periods, Fee Payments in Installments  
Fire Department Dues Distribution Reestimate

***Safety and Professional Services -- Program Transfers***

Long-Term Vacancies  
Transfer Veterinary Examining Board to the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection  
Transfer Regulation of Tattooing, Body Piercing, and Tanning to the Department of Financial Institutions and Professional Services

***Forward Wisconsin Development Authority/Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation***

**Regional Revolving Loan Fund Grant Program**

**Exceptions to the Open Records Law**

**Reporting requirements of Grant and Loan Recipients**

***Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority***

No issue papers have been prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau

***Omnibus Motion -- MA***

Motion #495 Vote: Adopted 12-4

This motion covers issue areas focused on the topics below relating to medical assistance (MA). Highlights of this motion include the following:

- Increases funding for MA to reflect current estimates of MA benefits costs.
- Deletes the governor's recommendation to require SeniorCare enrollees to apply for and enroll in Medicare Part D and increases funding to reflect this change.
- Approves the governor's recommendation to require the Department of Health Services to make disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments in each year of the biennium.
- Specifies that the payments to DSH be made annually on an ongoing basis.
- Increases funding for and expands the enhanced dental services reimbursement pilot program to include Marathon County.
- Extends MA coverage to residential-based substance abuse treatment.
- Provide \$5,000,000 (\$500,000 GPR and \$4,500,000 FED) in 2015-16 for procurement and implementation of an advanced analytics system for the purpose of minimizing provider and beneficiary fraud in the state's MA program, or for the purposes of verifying the identification of MA and Medicare claimants prior to utilization of services.
- Requires DHS to annually submit a report to the JFC that contains the following information from the prior fiscal year: 1) total amount of revenue collected by eligible ambulatory surgical centers (ASC) under the ASC assessment, 2) the amount each eligible ASC paid under the assessment, 3) the total amount of money received by each managed care organization, if money was received, from the assessment, 4) the total amount each managed care organization paid to

ASCs, and 5) the total amount of revenue returned to eligible ASCs under the assessment.

- Eliminates long-term vacancies at DHS.
- Requires DHS to allow an ambulance service provider to staff an ambulance at the paramedic level with one paramedic and one emergency medical technician of any level if specified criteria as detailed in the motion apply.

***Health Services -- Departmentwide***

Eliminate Long-Term Vacancies  
Federal Revenue Reestimates  
Funding and Position Transfers

***Health Services -- Medical Assistance -- General***

Blah blah blah

MA Cost-to-Continue  
SeniorCare -- Cost to Continue  
SeniorCare -- Required Medicare Part D Application and Enrollment  
Disproportionate Share Hospital Payments  
Reimbursement Rates for Federally Qualified Health Centers  
Independent Assessment Requirement for Personal Care Services  
Enhanced Dental Services Reimbursement Pilot Program  
MA Coverage of Residential Based Substance Abuse Treatment Services  
Include Drugs in Managed Care Contracts  
BadgerCare Plus Coverage for Childless Adults

This information can also be found online if your individual office subscribes to the Finance portion of the Wheeler Report website.

***Next Executive Session: Wednesday, May 27th***

***On the docket for Next Week:***

Administration -- Transfers

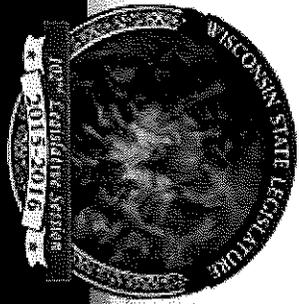
Blood Withdrawals -- Intoxicated and Reckless Flying Violations  
Building Commission  
General Fund Taxes -- Income and Franchise Taxes  
General Fund Taxes -- Sales and Excise Taxes  
Natural Resources -- Departmentwide  
Program Supplements  
Revenue -- Departmentwide  
Revenue -- Tax Administration  
Sport and Entertainment District  
Tourism -- Office of Marketing  
Workforce Development -- Worker's Compensation  
Workforce Development -- Unemployment Insurance

Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

**Krause, Caroline**

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**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2015 10:02 PM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 5.27.15 - Long Term Care  
**Importance:** High



# Joint Committee on Finance

## *Republican Update*

May 27, 2015

## ***GOPweb***

*JFC E-updates, talking points, columns, messaging and whatever else comes up during the budget process are posted on GOPweb.*

*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

## ***Messaging***

### ***Long-Term Care Background***

- Family Care was created in 1998.
- It serves people with physical disabilities, intellectually/developmental disabilities and frail elders.
- Family Care utilizes both Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs).
- As of March 1, 2015, there were 41,974 people enrolled in Family Care.
- IRIS stands for Include, Respect, I Self-Direct.
- It's a Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver for self-directed long-term supports.
- The program is an option for adults with long-term care needs.
- More than 11,000 people across Wisconsin are enrolled in IRIS.

### ***Long-Term Care Announcement***

- Legislative Republicans proposed a new plan that gives DHS limited authority to pursue a waiver from the Federal Government for Wisconsin's long-term care services.
- These changes include the expansion of Family Care and self-directed care.
- The plan integrates long-term and medical care (acute and primary care) to ensure better care for patients, customers, and doctors.
- Moreover, this plan is a better value for hardworking Wisconsin taxpayers.
- IRIS and ADRC services are not going away -- they are simply being integrated into the Family Care program.

### ***Legislative Republicans' LTC Plan Includes the Following:***

- A strong self-directed care option with budget authority.
- Public and stakeholder input.
- The complete integration of long-term, acute, and primary care with Medicaid services.
- The creation of no fewer than 5 regional health districts to be served by multiple Integrated Health Agencies (IHA) in each district.

- The development for alternatives for initial assessments, functional screens, and provider selection.
- Actuarially determined rates paid to IHAs.
- Adequately served provider networks.
- A three year transitional period during which IHAs must accept any willing provider.
- Approval of the waiver submission by the JFC.

### *How Does This Differ From The Governor's Plan?*

- The governor's plan lacked details and rationale.
- The Legislative Republican plan requires a self-directed option.
- The Legislative Republican plan requires public and stakeholder input.
- The governor's plan proposed a statewide provider network. Alternatively, the Legislative Republican plan proposes setting up no fewer than 5 regional provider networks.

Click [here](#) for the JFC Republicans' release.

### *Additional JFC Highlights:*

- The JFC has funded Medicaid at cost-to-continue. This funding totals over \$1 billion.
- The JFC voted to provide GPR-supported bonding and enumerate a Confluence Arts Center in Eau Claire.
- The Committee also enumerated a new and much needed Chemistry Building for the UW-Madison campus. This literally builds upon our proposal to lessen teh proposed cuts to the UW System.
- The Committee approved the proposed Wisconsin Agricultural Education Center in Manitowoc County. This facility will help perpetuate agricultural education and farming.
- The JFC voted to create a Frank Lloyd Wright Heritage Trail, spanning from the southeastern portion of the state to the southwestern portion of the state.
- The Committee continued to crack down on fraud by increasing penalties for UI fraud.

- The JFC voted to reduce the size of government by deleting vacant positions along with the funding appropriated for these positions.

### ***JFC Executive Session Recap***

Today the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) completed its tenth executive session of the 2015-17 budget. The following is a list of issue areas taken up by the Committee and voted on:

#### ***Omnibus Motion:***

Motion #518: Amendment adopted by unanimous consent. Vote: Adopted 12-4

This motion covers issue areas focused on the topics below relating to DHS and Long-Term Care. Highlights of this motion include the following:

- This motion deletes the governor's recommendation. Instead, it describes a plan for long-term care changes.
- This motion is consistent with the input we heard in public hearings and the feedback we have all received from our constituents.
- These changes include the expansion of Family Care and self-directed care.
- The plan integrates long-term and medical care to ensure better care for patients, customers, and doctors.
- The motion directs DHS to consult with the public and stakeholders to develop a plan for long-term care. This consultation is critically important in order for us to get this right.
- Once DHS formulates a plan with the public and stakeholders, the department will begin negotiations with the Federal Government to pursue a waiver. JFC has oversight of this plan and will have to approve before April 1, 2016 and before the department can submit the waiver to CMS.
- After DHS is awarded a waiver from the Federal Government, they can begin statewide implementation of the plan.
- This motion specifies that MA-funded long-term care consumers receive both long-term care and acute care services from integrated health agencies (IHA).
- Moreover, this motion divides the state into no less than 5 regions and requires that there will be multiple IHAs in each region of the state.

- The motion requires DHS to evaluate the functional screen and options counseling for reliability and consistency among ADRCs, and to provide a report regarding these activities by January 1, 2017.
- Included in the motion is a 3% annual increase to the children's long-term care services program for autism services.
- Additionally, the motion directs excess funds from school-based services to reduce waitlists for children's long-term care services.
- The motion provides over \$3.1 GPR and \$4.4 FED for a 1% acuity increase for nursing homes.

*Department of Health Services -- Long-Term Care Services*

Long Term Care Changes

ADRCs and Long-Term Care Advisory Councils

Statewide Expansion of Family Care and IRIS

Children's Community Options Program

Dementia Care Specialists

Children's Long-Term Care Services

MA Reimbursement for Nursing Homes

***Omnibus Motion:***

Motion #509 Vote: Adopted 12-4

This motion covers issue areas focused on the topics below relating to the Building Commission, Building Program, DOA -- Transfers, Tourism -- Office of Marketing, DWD -- Workers Compensation, and DWD -- Unemployment Insurance. Highlights of this motion include the following:

- Approve the proposed Wisconsin Agricultural Education Center, Inc. project to be funded with \$5 million GPR-supported bonding and over \$6.6 million in gifts, grants, and other receipts.
- Approve the proposed Carroll University Science Laboratory Facility project to be funded with \$3 million in GPR-supported bonding and \$23.5 million in gifts, grants, and other receipts.
- Provide \$15 million in GPR-supported bonding and enumerate a Confluence Arts Center in Eau Claire.

- Provide \$86.2 million in GPR-supported bonding and over \$21.5 million in gifts, grants, and other funds for the UW-Madison Chemistry Building Addition and Renovation project.
- Direct DOA to develop a plan, in consultation with several state agencies, for assuming responsibility for services relating to human resources, payroll, finance, budgeting, procurement, and IT.
- Per a Budget Buddy request, require DOA, prior to signing or renewing a lease for space, to solicit lease options in counties other than Dane or Milwaukee Counties.
- Delete 28.9 positions at the Tourism Office of Marketing along with the funding for these positions.
- Require the DOT to create a Frank Lloyd Wright Heritage Trail.
- Delete the transfer of worker's compensation administrative functions from DWD to OCL.
- Approve the transfer of most adjudicatory functions, as amended by the administration's erratum, from DWD to DHA.
- Delete \$144,500 SEG and \$36,000 PR annually associated with 5 vacant position deletions at DWD's worker's compensation division.
- Increase penalties for UI fraud -- specifically increase the current 15% surcharge to 40%.
- The additional 25% of the surcharge, currently projected at over \$400,000, would be deposited into the state's program integrity fund.
- Transfer the limited administrative attachment for the Labor and Industry Review Commission from DWD to DOA.
- Decrease the net amount of GPR debt service required over the biennium to reflect the projected lapses from GPR debt service appropriations.
- Require DOA to establish a planned amortization schedule for the repayment of principal repayment on the state's short-term, general obligation programs.

***Blood Withdrawals -- Intoxicated and Reckless Flying Violations***

No issue papers were prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

***Building Commission***

GPR Debt Service Reestimate

Short Term Debt Restructuring

***Building Program***

Non-State Projects in 2015-17 State Building Program

***Program Supplements***

No issue papers were prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

***Department of Administration -- Transfers***

Provider of Information Technology Services for Certain Agencies

Shared Agency Services Pilot Program

Transfer of State Energy Office and Relocation Assistance Program for Public Service

Commission

Transfer Vacant Positions for Information Technology Procurement

Office of Government Continuity

***Department of Tourism -- Office of Marketing***

Office of Marketing

***Department of Workforce Development -- Worker's Compensation***

Transfer of Worker's Compensation Division Functions from OCI and DHA

Changes to Supplemental Benefit Reimbursements and Payments from the Uninsured

Employers Fund

***Department of Workforce Development -- Unemployment Insurance***

Increase Penalties for UI Fraud

Suitable Work Definition

***Room Tax Motion:***

Motion #516 Vote: Adopted 9-7

Current law authorizes municipalities to establish a tax on paid overnight lodging guests, subject to certain limitations. In 1994, the law was amended to require municipalities to use no less than 70% of the room taxes collected toward tourism

marketing, promotion, and development. The municipality was allowed to retain the remaining 30%.

This motion deletes the current law provision that allows a municipality to directly spend the portion of room tax revenues required to be used for tourism promotion and development for those purposes.

Investment in tourism is critical to our state and many local economies. Every dollar invested in tourism marketing in Wisconsin generates a 7-to-1 return in state and local tax dollars.

This information can also be found online if your individual office subscribes to the Finance portion of the Wheeler Report website.

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***Next Executive Session: Friday, May 29th***

***Below is a list of issue areas remaining to be tackled by the JFC:***

General Fund Taxes -- Income and Franchise Taxes  
General Fund Taxes -- Sales and Excise Taxes  
Department of Natural Resources -- Departmentwide  
Department of Revenue -- Departmentwide  
Department of Revenue -- Tax Administration  
Sports and Entertainment District  
Department of Transportation -- Transportation Finance  
Department of Transportation -- Local Transportation Aid  
Department of Transportation -- Local Transportation Assistance  
Department of Transportation -- State Highways Program  
University of Wisconsin System

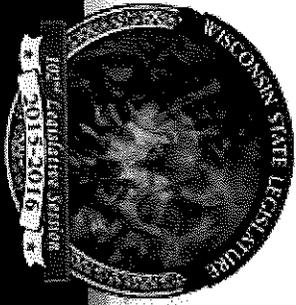
Joint Committee on Finance

“I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.” Thomas Jefferson

Krause, Caroline

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**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2015 8:56 PM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update 5.29.15 - DNR and UW System  
**Importance:** High



# Joint Committee on Finance

## Republican Update

May 29, 2015

## **GOPweb**

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## **Messaging**

### **DNR**

- The JFC voted to continue the DNR's land acquisition through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program.
- However, the JFC is continuing funding for stewardship at a more conservative cost than current law -- specifically, funding for stewardship moving forward is a reduction of over \$21,000,000 per year.
- This makes for a more financially responsible and sustainable program, as the Committee strove to find a balance between protecting two precious resources -- our natural heritage and taxpayer dollars.
- With this plan, about \$140 million in stewardship debt will be repaid within the next 20 years.
- This plan also provides debt service payments of \$1.3 million over the 2015-17 biennium.
- The plan includes continued funding for Kettle Moraine Springs fish hatchery and a project to construct two pedestrian bridges across the Fox River in Neenah and Menasha.

Click here for Reps. Nygren, Loudenbeck release.

Click here for Gathering Waters' release.

Click here for the Nature Conservancy release.

### **UW System**

- The JFC voted to delete the governor's proposal to create a UW System authority. Instead, the Committee provided the System with a number of flexibilities -- many of which the System has been requesting for years.
- The JFC reduced the proposed cut to the System by \$50 million. This reduction will benefit the smaller UW institutions that are least equipped to handle budget cuts.
- Several dozen flexibilities given to the System by the JFC include the following 1) Ability to provide merit pay to UW staff and faculty, 2) tools for chancellors to run effective and efficient campus operations, and 3) the removal of the Building Commission process on certain projects.

- The continued tuition freeze approved by the JFC ensures that additional costs won't be shifted to students and parents. Action by the JFC ensures tuition will remain at the current level for the next two years.
  - The Committee outlined accountability measures for the System.
- Moving forward, this information will help students, parents, taxpayers, and the Legislature gauge how well the System is managing its budget, academics, and administration.
- The reforms and flexibilities passed by the JFC today will help the System continue to grow, innovate, and improve.

Click here for JFC Republicans' joint release.

Click here for UW System President Cross' statement.

Click here for the UW System statement on shared governance and tenure.

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### ***JFC Executive Session Recap***

Today the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) completed its eleventh executive session of the 2015-17 budget. The following is a list of issue areas taken up by the Committee and voted on:

#### ***Omnibus Motion:***

Motion #520 Vote: Adopted 12-4

Motion #528: Amendment to Motion #520

This motion covers issue areas focused on the topics below relating to DNR. Highlights of this motion include the following:

- Delete the governor's recommendation to freeze land acquisition under the stewardship program for 13 years.
- Instead, specify that the DNR may not obligate more than \$33.25 million in each year for stewardship from FY 2015-16 through 2019-20.
- This is a reduction of over \$21,000,000 per year from current stewardship funding levels. The Committee strove to find a balance between protecting two precious resources -- our natural heritage and taxpayer dollars.
- Provide \$50,000 GPR in 2015-16 and \$980,000 GPR in 2016-17 for estimated debt service payments. This plan is financially sustainable and will

reduce Wisconsin's stewardship debt by about \$140 million over the next 20 years.

- Modify shoreland zoning standards in a reasonable manner which prevents counties from adopting shoreland zoning regulations that are more restrictive than the state shoreland zoning regulations. This Budget Buddy request protects property owners' right, while protecting our precious lakes and rivers, while at the same time creating uniformity and certainty for property owners and builders.

- Specify that all fee simple land acquisitions north of State Trunk Highway 64 acquired using stewardship funds are subject to review by the JFC under the 14-day passive review process.

- \$5 million annually will be set aside from the land acquisition subprogram to provide grants to counties to acquire land to be included in county forests. Moreover, specify that the annual amount required to be set aside for the Ice Age Trail be \$1 million, rather than \$3 million as prescribed under current law.

- Stewardship funding may also be utilized for DNR property development. This includes motorized stewardship grants.

- The DNR will also obligate funds from existing stewardship bonding authority for a number of specified purposes for Kettle Moraine Springs, including rehabilitation of a major fish hatchery, which is important to preserving our sporting heritage.

- Per a Budget Buddy request, DNR has been directed to provide stewardship funds for a local assistance grant program to the cities of Neenah and Menasha for a project to construct two pedestrian bridges across the Fox River.

- Specify that the net proceeds of DNR land sales from land required to be offered for sale under statute be used for specific purposes, such as paying public debt issued under the stewardship program, among other things. This was done to help incentivize the sale of land not needed to achieve the goals of the stewardship master plan in a manner to help decrease the program's debt.

- Restore \$297,000 all-terrain vehicle account SEC annually for the National Off-Highway Vehicle Insurance and Services Group grant. Restoration of these dollars will help to ensure that a network of volunteers continue to educate ATV riders on safety while helping to monitor and patrol our trail system.

- Require the Legislative Audit Bureau to conduct an audit of the forestry account of the conservation fund.
- Clarify previously-passed legislation which allows hunting with a bow and arrow or crossbow within the jurisdiction of a local governmental unit.
- Create a PR appropriation for the deposit of fees collected by DNR for department educational activities at the Horicon Marsh Education and Visitors Center.
- Amend Chapter 88 of the statutes relating to drainage districts to clarify whether a drainage district is suspended, reinstated, or dissolved. This Budget Buddy request helps with a number of things, including helping the drainage board and land owners decide whether upkeep is necessary.

***Natural Resources -- Departmentwide***

Position Reductions

Stewardship Program Restrictions

Stewardship Funding for Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery

Transfers Between Appropriations

Eliminate Grants to Nonprofit Conservation Organizations

***Omnibus Motion:***

Motion #521 Vote: 12-4

Motion #530: Amendment to Motion #521

This motion covers issue areas focused on the topics below relating to the UW System. Highlights of this motion include the following:

- Delete the governor's UW System authority proposal.
- Reduce the governor's proposed cut to the UW System by \$50 million. Now, the base budget reduction will be \$250 million for the System over the biennium. This mirrors a reduction to the System budget by then-Governor Jim Doyle. However, when Doyle cut the System's state aid, he allowed for that cut to be filled with a tuition increase.
- Convert the System's GPR general program operations appropriation from annual to biennial to allow additional budget flexibility for the UW.
- Freeze tuition for resident undergraduates at UW schools at the current rate for the 2015-17 biennium. An exception includes permission for the Board of Regents to potentially adjust tuition at UW Stevens Point specifically for

- differential tuition only if they current student body approves the move via a referendum.
- Maintain current law in regards to Minnesota-Wisconsin tuition reciprocity.
  - Restore tribal gaming funding for a number of programs throughout the UW System as well as a restoration of some segregated fund appropriations.
  - Restore current law requiring the director of OSER to submit pay plan recommendations for UW faculty and academic staff to JCOER.
  - Permit the Board of Regents to use base funds to provide salary adjustments to recognize merit.
  - Delete tenure from statute, but allow the Board of Regents the authority to grant tenure appointment for faculty members.
  - To help expedite building projects that don't require state funding, provide that UW System building projects wouldn't be subject to Building Commission approval and supervision if certain criteria apply.
  - Authorize the Board of Regents to lease real property for use by the System.
  - Permit the System to annually identify and approve eligible energy conservation projects.
  - Permit the Board of Regents to remit nonresident tuition, given certain criteria is met.
  - Require the Board of Regents to identify accountability measures in specified areas, including financial management and educational performance.
  - Modify all facets of shared governance -- including the role of the chancellor, role of the faculty, role of academic staff, and role of students.
  - Delete current law stating that the State Treasurer is the treasurer of the Board of Regents.
  - Require UW institutions to charge uniform application fees to all undergraduates, and to all graduate, law, and medical school applicants.
  - Create a new authorizer of charter schools in the UW System. More information is included in Item #70 in the motion text.

### *University of Wisconsin System*

#### Creation of the UW System Authority

#### GPR Base Budget Reduction

#### Resident Undergraduate Tuition Freeze

Delete Segregated Fund Appropriations  
Delete Tribal Gaming Funding  
Future GPR Funding  
Compensation, GPR Position Authority, and Position Reports  
PR-Funded Building Projects and Self-Amortizing Bonding  
Procurement Authority  
Investment of Certain PR Balances  
PR Balance and Auxiliary Reserve Reporting  
State Laboratory of Hygiene Funding  
Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative  
Wisconsin Environmental Education Board  
Extension Recycling Education and Solid Waste Research and Experiments  
Minnesota-Wisconsin Student Reciprocity

This information can also be found online if your individual office subscribes to the Finance portion of the Wheeler Report website.

***Next Executive Session: To Be Continued...***

***Below is a list of issue areas remaining to be tackled by the JFC:***

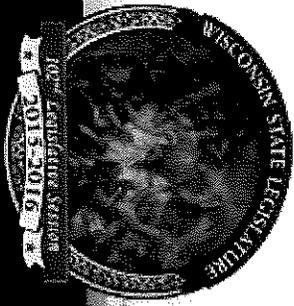
General Fund Taxes -- Income and Franchise Taxes  
General Fund Taxes -- Sales and Excise Taxes  
Department of Revenue -- Departmentwide  
Department of Revenue -- Tax Administration  
Sports and Entertainment District  
Department of Transportation -- Transportation Finance  
Department of Transportation -- Local Transportation Aid  
Department of Transportation -- Local Transportation Assistance  
Department of Transportation -- State Highways Program

Joint Committee on Finance  
"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson

Krause, Caroline

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**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2015 9:33 AM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update: A Closer Look At Education  
**Importance:** High



# Joint Committee on Finance

## *Republican Update*

June 12, 2015

## **GOPweb**

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*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

## **Budget Update: A Closer Look at Education**

The following is a list of talking points outlining the positive changes made by the JFC this budget season regarding K-12 education and the UW System.

### **K-12 Education**

#### **General Overview**

- JFC restored funding of \$150 per pupil in the first year of the biennium.
- JFC increased funding by an additional \$100 per pupil in the second year (\$250 per pupil total in second year).
- That's an investment in public education that totals over \$200 million over the biennium.
- Over \$100 million in funding comes from the school levy credit. The rest of the funding comes from what JFC has already saved this budget season paired with budget reprioritization.
- Property taxes will not be adversely affected by increased K-12 funding.
- This investment will ensure WI students continue to have access to quality education.

#### **Rural Schools Task Force**

- Allow school districts to share certain grades without consolidation.
- Create a new version of the TEACH program to provide digital learning tools.
- Increase funding for high-cost transportation aid by an additional \$5 million.
- Increase funding for sparsity aid by an additional \$8.4 million.
- Allow flexibility in teacher licensing to provide more technical education classes.

### *Alternative Licensure*

The alternative license provision as it stands now accomplishes the following:

Under the alternative licensure option, the local school board and superintendent are designated the role of 1) identifying the course need in the classroom and 2) identifying a proficient individual in the community for an alternative license/permit to teach the course. This alternative pathway is completely optional; no district would be forced to make use of this new alternative if it does not wish to. Additionally, the license/permit granted by DPI would be valid only for the district where the individual has been deemed qualified; it is non-transferable to other districts.

The JFC is working to tighten this option in a number of ways, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Alternative teacher license/permit must have high school diploma, GED or equivalent.
- DPI shall conduct criminal/background checks.
- Add reciprocity language to allow for recruitment of candidates with licenses from other states.

Should these changes be adopted by the Committee, they will likely be included in a technical wrap-up motion.

### *UW System*

#### *General Overview*

- The JFC voted to delete the governor's proposal to create a UW System authority. Instead, the Committee provided the System with a number of flexibilities -- many of which the System has been requesting for years.

- The JFC reduced the proposed cut to the System by \$50 million. This reduction, along with \$20 million from UW surplus monies previously identified by System President Ray Cross, will benefit the smaller UW institutions that are least equipped to handle budget cuts.
- Several dozen flexibilities given to the System by the JFC include the following 1) ability to provide merit pay to UW staff and faculty, 2) tools for chancellors to run effective and efficient campus operations, and 3) the removal of the Building Commission process on certain projects.
- The continued tuition freeze approved by the JFC ensures that additional costs won't be shifted to students and parents. Action by the JFC ensures tuition will remain at the current level for the next two years.
- The Committee outlined accountability measures for the System. Moving forward, this information will help students, parents, taxpayers, and the Legislature gauge how well the System is managing its budget, academics, and administration.
- The reforms and flexibilities passed by the JFC today will help the System continue to grow, innovate, and improve.

### ***Differential Tuition***

- The JFC voted permit the Board of Regents to increase resident undergraduate tuition at UW - Stevens Point to implement differential tuition.
- This would happen *only* if approved by the students via a referendum held after the effective date of the budget bill.
- Funds collected from differential tuition would directly benefit the students and would not conflict with the tuition freeze outlined above.

### ***Tenure***

- Language regarding tenure was deleted *in statute only*. Having tenure language in statute is unnecessary, as Wisconsin is the only state in the nation to have such language specified in state law.
- The JFC voted to establish conditions under which the Board of Regents may grant a tenure appointment to a faculty member.
- This means that the JFC did not abolish tenure -- its function is simply being shifted to the authority of the Board of Regents. This is far from unusual when compared to other states.

***Next Executive Session: Tentatively Wednesday, June 27th***

***Below is a list of issue areas remaining to be tackled by the JFC:***

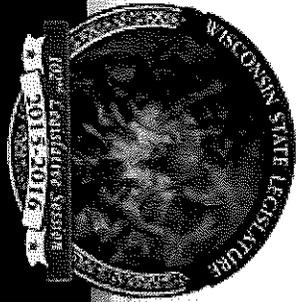
- General Fund Taxes -- Income and Franchise Taxes
- General Fund Taxes -- Sales and Excise Taxes
- Department of Revenue -- Departmentwide
- Department of Revenue -- Tax Administration
- Sports and Entertainment District
- Department of Transportation -- Transportation Finance
- Department of Transportation -- Local Transportation Aid
- Department of Transportation -- Local Transportation Assistance
- Department of Transportation -- State Highways Program

Joint Committee on Finance  
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**Krause, Caroline**

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**From:** Rep. Nygren  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2015 9:38 AM  
**To:** Rep. Nygren  
**Subject:** JFC Update: A Closer Look At DNR  
**Importance:** High



# Joint Committee on Finance

## *Republican Update*

June 12, 2015

## **GOPweb**

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### **Budget Update: A Closer Look at DNR**

The following is a list of talking points outlining the positive changes made by the JFC this budget season regarding the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

#### **Natural Resources**

##### **Stewardship**

- The JFC voted to continue the DNR's land acquisition through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program at a more conservative level than current law.
- Specifically, bonding for stewardship was reduced by over \$21 million per year.
- This makes for a more financially responsible and sustainable program, as the Committee strove to find a balance between protecting two precious resources -- our natural heritage and taxpayer dollars.
- With this plan, about \$140 million in stewardship debt will be repaid within the next 20 years.
- This plan also provides debt service payments of \$1.3 million over the 2015-17 biennium.
- Under the plan, all fee-simple purchases north of Highway 64 will be subject to passive review by JFC.
- The plan includes continued funding for Kettle Moraine Springs fish hatchery and a project to construct two pedestrian bridges across the Fox River in Neenah and Menasha.
- The JFC motion doubled the investment from the Governor's budget recommendation.
- The plan provides for the purchase of the "best of the best" land acquisitions and easements.

#### **Shoreland Zoning: What's Changed?**

- This motion creates certainty, uniformity and jobs while growing the economy and tax base, all while reaffirming our core commitment to protect our precious lakes and rivers.
- NR 115 is a statewide shoreland zoning standard promulgated by the DNR. It has been changed and updated many times. Counties are required to adopt standards set forth in NR 115.
- With very few exceptions, the motion does not change this framework and does not diminish or change the right of the DNR to change or update the standards.
- DNR promulgates changes to NR 115 based on science and input from stakeholders from around the state. Republicans believe in science and in this stakeholder input process. Thus, this motion makes sure the counties are consistent with standards adopted by DNR instead of allowing a few radical special interest groups to influence some counties to be more restrictive than the DNR rule. In short, this common sense reform provides science-based, statewide uniformity. It also ensures that we protect our precious lakes and rivers while protecting and enhancing property rights, the economy, job-creation and the tax base.
- It does this by providing certainty to property owners and regulators that so long as a non-conforming structure is not expanded beyond the existing footprint, it may remain and be repaired and rebuilt. This process will lead to better compliance with the rule and because the structure will remain in the same footprint, it will result in zero additional runoff into lakes and rivers.
- This means instead of avoiding the permit process, where too many property owners feared a web of rules, hearings and an uncertain result, property owners will now have an incentive to comply with the rule. This will result in projects being done by licensed contractors instead of fly-by-night operators. This means greater safety and quality. It also means projects will end up on the tax rolls which will expand and grow our property tax base.

- Finally, it brings some legislative oversight to the NR 115 process by making sure that property owners are not subjected to unreasonable or over-zealous changes in the rule or county ordinances.

***What the Shoreland Zoning Changes Don't Do***

- The changes will not harm the lakes or rivers or result in more runoff. In fact, greater compliance likely means reduced runoff. Thus, by bringing some reason and certainty to this process, we hope to see greater compliance meaning less runoff.
- Does not gut NR 115 or county ordinances. It reaffirms the primacy of NR 115 and brings uniformity and certainty. It allows counties to regulate just as they always have, but now only to the limit of NR 115.
- Does not mean people will not have to comply with normal building and zoning permit requirements. Keep in mind that shoreland zoning is an "overlay" district. This means the general rules of the underlying district (residential, commercial, ag, etc) will continue to apply with no change. Leg council memo affirms the continuing obligation to obtain normal building and land use permits.
- It does not change current law for cities and villages which have always been largely exempt from NR 115 requirements. These changes only apply to property in a city or village already subject to NR 115. Leg council memo affirms this.

***Next Executive Session: Tentatively Wednesday, June 17th***

***Below is a list of issue areas remaining to be tackled by the JFC:***

- General Fund Taxes -- Income and Franchise Taxes
- General Fund Taxes -- Sales and Excise Taxes
- Department of Revenue -- Departmentwide
- Department of Revenue -- Tax Administration

Sports and Entertainment District

Department of Transportation -- Transportation Finance

Department of Transportation -- Local Transportation Aid

Department of Transportation -- Local Transportation Assistance

Department of Transportation -- State Highways Program

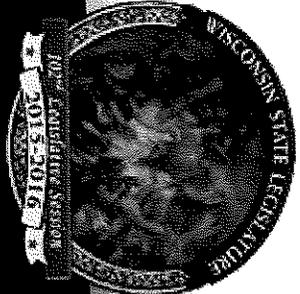
Joint Committee on Finance

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**Krause, Caroline**

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**From:** Rep.Nygren  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2015 9:39 AM  
**To:** Rep.Nygren  
**Subject:** Jfc Update: A Closer Look At LTC  
  
**Importance:** High



# Joint Committee on Finance

## *Republican Update*

June 12, 2015

## **GOPweb**

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### **Budget Update: A Closer Look at Long Term Care**

The following is a list of talking points outlining the positive changes made by the JFC this budget season regarding Wisconsin's long term care services.

#### **Long Term Care**

##### **General Overview**

- Legislative Republicans proposed a new plan that gives DHS limited authority to pursue a waiver from the Federal Government for Wisconsin's long-term care services.
- These changes include the expansion of Family Care and self-directed care.
- The plan integrates long-term and medical care (acute and primary care) to ensure better care for patients, customers, and doctors.
- Moreover, this plan is a better value for hardworking Wisconsin taxpayers.
- IRIS and ADRRC services are not going away -- they are simply being integrated into the Family Care program.

##### **Legislative Republicans' LTC Plan Includes the Following:**

- A strong self-directed care option with budget authority.
- Public and stakeholder input.
- The complete integration of long-term, acute, and primary care with Medicaid services.
- The creation of no fewer than 5 regional health districts to be served by multiple Integrated Health Agencies (IHA) in each district.
- The development for alternatives for initial assessments, functional screens, and provider selection.
- Actuarially determined rates paid to IHAs.
- Adequately served provider networks.

- A three year transitional period during which IHAs must accept any willing provider.
- Approval of the waiver submission by the JFC.

***How Does This Differ From The Governor's Plan?***

- The governor's plan lacked details and rationale.
  - The Legislative Republican plan requires a self-directed option.
  - The Legislative Republican plan requires public and stakeholder input.
  - The governor's plan proposed a statewide provider network.
- Alternatively, the Legislative Republican plan proposes setting up no fewer than 5 regional provider networks.

See Rep. Knudson's FAQ for more information.

***Next Executive Session: Tentatively Wednesday, June 17th***

***Below is a list of issue areas remaining to be tackled by the JFC:***

- General Fund Taxes -- Income and Franchise Taxes
- General Fund Taxes -- Sales and Excise Taxes
- Department of Revenue -- Departmentwide
- Department of Revenue -- Tax Administration
- Sports and Entertainment District
- Department of Transportation -- Transportation Finance
- Department of Transportation -- Local Transportation Aid
- Department of Transportation -- Local Transportation Assistance
- Department of Transportation -- State Highways Program

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**Krause, Caroline**

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**From:**

Rep. Nygren

**Sent:**

Friday, July 03, 2015 12:19 AM

**To:**

Rep. Nygren

**Subject:**

JFC Update 7.2.15 - DOT, Taxes, and Revenue

**Importance:**

High



# Joint Committee on Finance

## *Republican Update*

July 2, 2015

## **GOPweb**

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## **Messaging**

Today, the JFC took its final vote to pass the 2015-17 state budget out of Committee. It was approved with a vote of 12-4.

- After receiving the governor's budget proposal early this year, we have done our due diligence to improve upon his recommendations.
- The state budget has been modified by the legislature. We have listened to the people of Wisconsin and prioritized what's important to our constituents across the state.
- We've continued prudent fiscal budgeting to spend within our state's financial means.
- Budgets are about priorities -- our state budget is no different. We have prioritized public education, invested in health care services for our most vulnerable populations, and protected taxpayers by promoting sustainable financial solutions for our state's future.

## **Transportation**

- We have reduced revenue bonds in the transportation budget by \$847,613,400.
- We've reduced all transportation bonding by \$450 million.
- It's important to hold all areas of our state equal -- road projects in Milwaukee should not take priority over projects in other areas of the state.
- Our DOT budget plan is a fair alternative for all of Wisconsin. Rural areas of our state will not take the brunt of the bonding reductions.
- Infrastructure is the lifeline of our state. Roads are just as important out-state as they are in the larger cities like Milwaukee. This plan creates a fair approach for reducing transportation bonding moving forward.
- The DOT will prioritize road projects throughout the state and present their plan to the JFC for approval before moving forward.

## **Revenue and Taxes**

- We have made changes to simplify our state's tax code. These improvements make for a simpler, flatter, and fairer system.
- We have cut government red tape by streamlining and simplifying our state's tax structure.

- We've helped to promote small business growth by expanding qualified new business venture (ONBV) eligibility.
- With today's changes, teachers will be able to deduct up to \$250 every year in taxes for supplies they purchase for their classrooms.
- We have made changes to phase out WEDC's loan program in order to increase funds for the entity's business development tax credits. This move helps to promote small business growth and strengthen our state's ever-improving economy.

### ***JFC Executive Session Recap***

Today the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) completed its twelfth executive session of the 2015-17 budget. The following is a list of issue areas taken up by the Committee and voted on:

#### ***Transportation Omnibus Motion:***

Motion 532: Vote: Adopted 12-4

This motion covers issue areas focused on the topics below relating to the Department of Transportation (DOT). Highlights of this motion include the following:

- Delete the governor's recommendation to provide DOT the authority to pledge the revenue derived from 50% of the state's motor vehicle fuel tax to support the transportation revenue bond program.
- Modify general transportation aid by increasing SEG funding annually for counties and municipalities to fully fund the 4% calendar year 2015 increase provided in 2013 Act 20.
  - Make aid payments to the Town of Kendall in Lafayette County and the Village of Lake Hallie in Chippewa County.
  - Create an appeals process within the general transportation aid program so any county or municipality may submit a request for reevaluation to the DOT if they believe an error was made on their aid payment report.
  - Provide funds for the increase in mass transit operating assistance in calendar year 2015.
  - Disallow state funds to be used for Milwaukee County-based fixed-guideway transit systems, such as a streetcar.

- Authorize over \$13 million in transportation fund-supported general obligation bonds for the harbor assistance program. Specify that the City of Kewannee receive funding for harbor infrastructure improvements up to \$4.2 million.
- Require the DOT to modify the local roads improvement program's administrative rules so that tribal funds may be used to meet the program's local match requirement.
- Provide a grant to the Town of Seneca in Wood County to go toward the replacement of Young Road Bridge.
- Reduce funding levels for Southeast Wisconsin Freeway Megaprojects Program. This will effectively freeze funding for the north leg of the Milwaukee Zoo Interchange; however, this change provides funding for the second phase of the core of the interchange.
- Reduce bonding for the Major Highway Development Program; moreover, increase estimated transportation fund revenues to reflect this decreased bonding.
- Delete the governor's recommendation to authorize transportation fund-supported bonds for the State Highway Rehabilitation Program. Instead, provide SEG and FED funding for the program.
- Provide \$350 million in general obligation bonding that could be used for either major highway development or state highway rehabilitation projects. Subject to the approval of the JFC, the DOT must submit a plan to the Committee before moving forward with road projects funded by these bonds.
- Request that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee direct the Legislative Audit Bureau to conduct a performance evaluation audit of the state highway program. This will help with determining which transportation projects are most important to be completed based on timing, type, and scope of the project, among other factors.
- Specify that, in all new highway contraction and reconstruction projects, bike and pedestrian infrastructure may not be built by the DOT if 1) bicyclists and pedestrians are legally prohibited from using the highway in question, or 2) the project is funded in whole or in part from state funds, with few exceptions.
- Allocate \$1.6 million to fund a consultant contract for freight optimization modeling services.
- Require that, before acquiring a vehicle for scrap metal and other proprietary articles, a scrap metal dealer shall examine the certificate or title of the vehicle to determine security, among other things.

- Establish a pilot project for a 24/7 sobriety program to monitor 2nd offense OWI offenders. This program will sunset on June 30, 2021.

***Transportation -- Transportation Finance***

Transportation Bond Summary and Pledge of Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Revenues for Payment of Revenue Bond Debt Service  
Transportation Revenue Options

***Transportation -- Local Transportation Aid***

General Transportation Aids  
Mass Transit Operating Assistance  
Transit Safety Oversight Program  
Elderly and Disabled Capital Assistance Program Modifications

***Transportation -- Local Transportation Assistance***

Freight Rail Preservation Bonding  
Transportation Facilities Economic Assistance and Development Program  
Transportation Alternatives Program  
Harbor Assistance Program Bonding

***Transportation -- State Highways Program***

Southeast Wisconsin Freeway Megaprojects  
Major Highway Development Program  
State Highway Rehabilitation Program  
Major Interstate Bridge Construction  
Construction Manager/General Contractor Pilot Program  
Repeal of Statute Requiring Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities  
Prohibiting the Use of State Monies for Community Sensitive Solutions

***Taxes and Revenue Omnibus Motion:***

Motion 533: Adopted 12-4

This motion covers issue areas focused on the topics below relating to general fund taxes, revenue, and public financing authority. Highlights of this motion include the following:

- Allow individuals to create Achieving a Better Life (ABLE) accounts on a tax preferred basis. Specify a number of other qualifications for these ABLE

accounts, including information regarding beneficiaries, transfer of accounts, and termination of accounts.

- Federalize the treatment of exemption amounts and exemptions phase-out provisions for the Wisconsin alternative minimum tax so that future tax years reflect federal indexing adjustments for inflation and subsequent law changes to the Internal Revenue Code. moreover, decrease individual income tax collections by an estimated \$6 million in the second year of the biennium.
- Create and exemption to current law clawback penalties for a business that WEDC certified as a qualified new business venture (QNBV) prior to April 20, 2012 and executed a note or bond that is convertible to an equity interest.
- Expand QNBV eligibility to companies that are engaged in certain business activities related to differentiating property.
- Authorize and allocate funding for 11 PR revenue agent positions for DOR for the state's debt collection program.
- Increase the standard deduction for married tax filers. Different deductions apply based on income and whether a married couple files jointly or separately.
- Federalize the state tax treatment of educators' classroom expenses.
- Create a sales and use tax exemption for goods sold to construction contractors who fulfill certain requirements and transfer the goods to Wisconsin elementary and secondary school districts, municipalities, or nonprofit entities if these goods become a component of a facility in Wisconsin that is owned by the entity.
- Create a sales tax exemption for farm-raised deer that are sold to a person who is operating a hunting reserve or game farm in Wisconsin.
- Impose hard cider tax on pear cider, and allow an establishment with a Class A liquor license (beer sales) to sell hard ciders.
- Require DOR to issue a retail beer and liquor license to an American Indian tribe that has a reservation of a specific size and meets certain criteria.
- Modify the College Savings Program in a number of ways, including 1) limiting the total contributions to plans, 2) specifying which amounts are and are not subject to the state individual income tax, and 3) increasing administrative resources for the program.
- Extend room tax provision to include all municipalities with an exception for municipalities that entered into a contract before January 1, 2015 and need the room tax revenues to fulfill said contract.

**Revenue -- Departmentwide**

No issue papers have been prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

**Revenue -- Tax Administration**

Additional Auditor Positions  
Additional Positions for Statewide Debt Collection  
Mining Construction Fee

**General Fund Taxes -- Income and Franchise Taxes**

Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit  
Illinois Income Tax Reciprocity  
Minnesota Income Tax Reciprocity Agreement  
Earned Income Tax Credit  
Internal Revenue Code Update  
Alternative Minimum Tax  
Jobs Tax Credit Reestimate  
Reestimate Enterprise Zone Tax Credit  
Reestimate Expenditure Levels for Expired Tax Credits  
Convert Two Continuing Appropriations to Sum Sufficient Appropriations  
Manufacturing and Agriculture Tax Credit Modification  
Clarification of the Economic Development Tax Credit  
Business Tax Credit Notification Requirements  
Reduce the Supplement to the Federal History Rehabilitation Tax Credit  
Qualified New Business Venture Exception from Penalty Payment  
Modifications to the Early State Business Investment Program  
Sunset and Modifications of State Business Tax Credits  
Convert refundable Business Tax Credits to Direct Grants

**General Fund Taxes -- Sales and Excise Taxes**

Nexus Creating Activities

**Technical Omnibus Motion:**

Motion #999: Vote: Adopted 12-4

Motion #539: Adopted amendment to Motion #999

This technical motion addresses technical issues throughout the duration of the 2015-17 budget process. Click the link above to read the motion language.

This information can also be found online if your individual office subscribes to the Finance portion of the [Wheeler Report](#) website.

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***Milwaukee Bucks Arena Announcement:***

The Milwaukee Bucks arena proposal has been removed from the 2015-17 state budget. Instead, this proposal will be voted on by both houses of the legislature as a stand alone bill. To read the text of this bill as it stands, click [here](#).

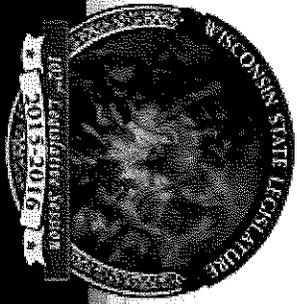
Joint Committee on Finance

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**Krause, Caroline**

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**From:** Rep. Nygren  
**Sent:** Friday, July 03, 2015 2:43 PM  
**To:** Rep. Nygren  
**Subject:** Records Update - Why It's Important  
**Importance:** High



# Joint Committee on Finance

## *Republican Update*

July 3, 2015

## **GOPweb**

*JFC E-updates, talking points, columns, messaging and whatever else comes up during the budget process are posted on GOPweb.*

*It is our intention to keep you informed about what is in the budget and how it might impact you and your district. If you have any questions or suggestions of what you would like to see in a JFC update, please feel free to call Caroline Krause at 6-2344.*

### **Records Update – Why It's Important**

There have been some recent questions raised about the changes adopted during yesterday's JFC meeting pertaining to public records. Attached to this message are a series of talking points for your use on this matter.

Over the course of the next few days, we will have continued conversations with our Senate colleagues and the governor's office about any need for potential changes. Also, we plan to discuss the adopted changes during our next caucus meeting on Tuesday at 1p.m.

**These changes reflect an effort to protect the free flow of ideas among legislators, protect constituents' ability to have open dialogue with their representatives, and allow easier updates to records laws to keep up with advances in technology (text messages, visual voice mail are currently all records)**

**Allows for Collaboration.** Currently, legislative service agencies have confidentiality restrictions that prevent them from disclosing information, even to each other. This proposal clarifies that service agencies may work together to serve the legislature.

**Protects constituents.** Constituents need to be able to contact their legislator without fear of reprisal from political foes. The proposal gives legislators the right to refuse to disclose the identity of constituents who contact them about legislative business, protecting the integrity of the legislator-constituent relationship.

**Protects legislative intent.** Legislative intent should be determined by committee action and floor debate, since the legislators in committee and on the floor don't even know the contents of a drafting file when they are voting on a bill. This is how it is done in Congress, because the Freedom of Information Act does not apply to Congress.

**Protects the free flow of ideas.** Legislators need to be able to have candid discussions with service agencies and staff. Staff provide no value if legislators are afraid to talk openly about policy ideas. The alternative is greater reliance on lobbyists and interest groups

**Privilege:** Codifies protections that already exist in other states, in Congress, and in Wisconsin case law. The proposal codifies a privilege for legislators that is similar to

the privilege already afforded federal legislators (via the speech and debate clause) and to legislators in most other states.

- The proposal is consistent with Wisconsin Supreme Court precedent which, in finding legislative privilege exists under the state constitution, construed the privilege to cover as much as is “necessary to achieve its objective of protecting the integrity of the legislative process.”

- Meaning, it needed “to reach matters that are an integral part of the processes by which members of the legislature participate with respect to the consideration of proposed legislation or with respect to other matters which are within the regular course of the legislative process.”
  - o State v. Beno, 116 Wis. 2d 122 (1984)

- This privilege would only apply to communications made in the course of legislative business and would not protect communications about criminal or campaign activity.

- Despite claims to the contrary, legislative privilege is not unusual. It exists in Congress and in most other states. **Today, there are at least 43 states that have some form of legislative privilege including Minnesota and Michigan.**

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"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson