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## SUMMARY OF MAY 7, 2010 JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MAIL BALLOT

[Results will be tabulated and available after May 14, 2010.]

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### A. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

*The Co-Chairs of the Joint Legislative Council recommend establishment of 16 Special Committees and appointment of their chairs and vice-chairs as follows:*

1. Special Committee on Criminal Justice Funding and Strategies  
*[Sen. Lena Taylor, Chair and Rep. Robert Turner, Vice-Chair]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to study funding of the criminal justice system and strategies to adequately and sustainably fund the criminal justice system. The study shall include consideration of funding for prosecutors, defense attorneys, and courts and collection of fees and surcharges imposed on criminal defendants.

2. Special Committee on Review of Emergency Detention and Admission of Minors Under Chapter 51  
*[Rep. Sandy Pasch, Chair and Sen. Dave Hansen, Vice-Chair]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to review the following provisions in ch. 51, Stats.: (a) the appropriateness of, and inconsistencies in, the utilization of emergency detention procedures under s. 51.15, Stats., across this state, and the availability and cost of emergency detention facilities; (b) the inconsistent statutory approaches to emergency detention between Milwaukee County and other counties in the state; and (c) the inconsistent application of procedures relating to admission of minors under s. 51.13, Stats., as modified by 2005 Wisconsin Act 444.

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3. Special Committee on Health Care Access

*[Rep. Frederick Kessler, Chair and Sen. Luther Olsen, Vice-Chair]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to study potential solutions to the shortage of health care providers, particularly in rural areas and inner cities, and the adequacy of funding for public health. The Special Committee is directed to study possible state assistance to underserved areas and an expansion of Wisconsin's capacity for training family practice physicians and nurses, and additional funding sources for public health.

4. Special Committee on Health Care Reform Implementation

*[Rep. Jon Richards and Sen. Jon Erpenbach, Co-Chairs and Sen. Alberta Darling and Rep. Kitty Rhoades, Co-Vice-Chairs]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to study and make recommendations on what changes should be made to Wisconsin's statutes and administrative rules in response to recently enacted federal health care reform legislation. The committee is directed to study all aspects of the federal legislation that affect Wisconsin including insurance market reforms, coverage for uninsured persons, preventive care, taxation, quality improvement, and health workforce issues.

5. Special Committee on Review of Higher Education Financial Aid Programs

*[Rep. Joan Ballweg, Chair and Sen. Fred A. Risser, Vice-Chair]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to review current laws relating to financial aid for higher education in order to improve student access to higher education, maximize utilization of higher education resources, and retain qualified graduates in Wisconsin. Policies for review may include: (a) the Wisconsin Covenant; (b) loan forgiveness programs; (c) Wisconsin/Minnesota tuition reciprocity; (d) academic excellence scholarships; and (e) need-based grants and loans.

6. Special Committee on Infant Mortality

*[Sen. Judith Robson, Chair and Rep. Cory Mason, Vice-Chair]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to study: (a) the causes of infant mortality in Wisconsin; (b) evaluation of efforts that have been undertaken to address this problem in both the private and public sectors; (c) coordination of public health and Medicaid funding; (d) evaluation of infant mortality prevention programs that have been successful in other cities and states; (e) evaluation of the public health costs of not addressing the causes of infant mortality in Wisconsin; and (f) developing a strategic proposal, including any necessary legislation, to address infant mortality in Wisconsin, particularly disparities in infant mortality rates in different geographic areas of the state.

7. Special Committee on Strategic Job Creation

*[Sen. Robert Wirch, Chair and Rep. Pat Strachota, Vice-Chair]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to study and make recommendations to promote strategic development of high-wage jobs and an educated and skilled workforce in the state by doing the following: (a) examining methods to promote green jobs and industries utilizing solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass technologies, including technologies for converting farm wastes to energy. In this examination, analyze current and potential incentives to encourage investment in research, development, commercialization, and use of these technologies and the development and retention of an educated and skilled workforce in these industries; (b) identifying industry and knowledge sectors with the greatest potential for job growth in the state and recommending steps to align the state's educational and workforce development programs, tax structure, and economic development initiatives to facilitate the growth of those sectors; and (c) analyzing the adequacy of the state's physical infrastructure, including access to high-speed Internet services, to support development of targeted industries and overall economic development of the state.

8. Special Committee on Judicial Discipline and Recusal

*[Rep. Gary Hebl, Chair and Sen. Glenn Grothman, Vice-Chair]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to: (a) review the current method by which justices and judges are disciplined; (b) examine alternative methods of judicial discipline, including methods of judicial discipline in other states and in the federal court system; and (c) recommend a method by which justices and judges should be disciplined. The Special Committee is also directed to review the current system of judicial recusal and to recommend an objective standard for judicial recusal.

9. Special Committee on Local Service Consolidation

*[Rep. Josh Zepnick, Chair and Rep. Mark Gottlieb, Vice-Chair]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to review current law and practice regarding the provision of services by local units of government in order to determine whether current law should be amended to facilitate the methods by which local units of government can partner to efficiently and cost-effectively provide services, including police, fire, and educational services, to their constituents.

10. Special Committee on Review of Spousal Maintenance Awards in Divorce Proceedings

*[Rep. Tony Staskunas, Chair and Rep. Amy Sue Vruwink, Vice-Chair]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to study: (a) the purpose and goals of awarding maintenance; (b) making application of the maintenance considerations given in s. 767.56, Stats., more uniform and predictable; (c) whether the statutes should provide guidance to the courts relating to amount and duration of a maintenance award; (d) whether cohabitation should be considered when revising maintenance orders under s. 767.59, Stats.; and (e) whether marital fault should be considered when determining a maintenance award.

11. Special Committee on Review of the Managed Forest Land Program  
*[Rep. Fred Clark, Chair and Rep. Donald Friske, Vice-Chair]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to review the Managed Forest Land (MFL) Program in order to ensure the long-term management and sustainability of private forest lands and to increase participation in the program. The committee shall review the following issues: (a) the scope and statutory purposes of the MFL program; (b) ways to increase public access on MFL lands; (c) the relationship between local zoning and the entry of parcels in the MFL program; (d) The impact of MFL enrollment on local and county revenues; and (e) trends in forest ownership and trends in forest product markets including biofuels.

12. Special Committee on Nanotechnology  
*[Rep. Chuck Benedict, Chair and Sen. Mark Miller, Vice-Chair]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to examine the human health and environmental concerns related to the manufacture, use, and disposal of nanomaterials and develop legislation to address these concerns. In particular, the Special Committee shall consider the establishment of methods to monitor nanomaterials by use of a nanotechnology registry system or the imposition of other disclosure requirements. The Special Committee shall also develop strategies to facilitate the development of nanotechnology to create and retain jobs in Wisconsin, including ways in which government can help nanotechnology researchers, small firms, and start-ups address potential risks and meet regulatory requirements.

13. Special Committee on Single-Use Plastics  
*[Rep. Spencer Black, Chair and Sen. Jim Holperin, Vice-Chair]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to: (a) evaluate the economic and environmental costs and benefits of single-use products, such as plastic food and beverage packaging and containers, plastic film products, and agricultural plastics; (b) review costs, benefits, availability, and feasibility of possible alternatives to these products; (c) assess current recycling efforts for these products, the effectiveness of these programs, and opportunities to promote increased recycling; and (d) recommend state policies related to these products that would minimize environmental impacts, maximize recycling, promote desirable alternatives, and benefit the economy of this state.

14. Special Committee on Public Assistance Program Integrity

*[Sen. Bob Jauch, Chair and Rep. Gordon Hintz, Vice-Chair]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to study current laws, rules, and policies relating to fraud prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution, and the current fraud penalty structure, in public assistance programs under ch. 49, Stats. The study shall include consideration of all of the following: (a) the findings and recommendations of recent Legislative Audit Bureau audits of the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program and child care regulation in Wisconsin, and implementation of those recommendations; (b) whether current fraud provisions in ch. 49 should be recodified, streamlined, and made uniform throughout the chapter; (c) the effectiveness of current prohibitions and investigatory and enforcement mechanisms; (d) whether current penalties and associated consequences of a finding of public assistance fraud achieve the goals of fraud prevention and deterrence; (e) incentives for fraud detection by entities administering public assistance programs; (f) whether eligibility provisions in certain public assistance programs increase the likelihood of fraudulent activity; and (g) funding for fraud prevention, detection, investigation, and enforcement at the state and local level.

15. Special Committee on Review of Records Access of Circuit Court Documents

*[Rep. Kelda Roys, Chair and Rep. Donna Seidel, Vice-Chair]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to review how, and by whom, circuit court civil and criminal records may be accessed through the Wisconsin Circuit Court Automation (WCCA) Program. The issues to be considered by the committee include: (a) the length of time a record remains accessible through WCCA; (b) whether accessibility of a record through WCCA should depend on how far a civil or criminal proceeding has progressed; and (c) whether records of proceedings that have: (1) been vacated or dismissed; or (2) resulted in acquittal or other form of exoneration should continue to be accessible through WCCA.

16. Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families

*[Sen. Julie Lassa, Chair and Rep. Steve Kestell, Vice-Chair]*

SCOPE: The Special Committee is directed to study the ways in which research relating to early brain development can be used to develop best practices for public programs. Specifically, the committee shall review current research and findings relating to early brain development and its implications for public policy relating to: (a) early childhood education; (b) home visitation programs; (c) elementary and secondary education; (d) child care; (e) child protective services; and (f) other programs serving families with young children.

**B. BIENNIAL APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS**

*The Co-Chairs of the Joint Legislative Council recommend that Sen. Spencer Coggis serve as chair and Rep. Jeffrey Mursau serve as vice-chair of the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations.*

SCOPE: The committee is directed to study issues relating to American Indians and the American Indian tribes and bands in this state and develop specific recommendations and legislative proposals relating to these issues. [s. 13.83 (3), Stats.]