



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Rep. Hutton and Sen. Kapenga Introduce Alternative Budgeting Proposal

[Madison, Wis.] – Representative Rob Hutton (R-Brookfield) and Senator Chris Kapenga (R-Delafield) have introduced legislation that would help provide legislators with more information and transparency to the budget process. The legislation would require state agencies to submit to the legislature, in addition to their current biennial budget request, a proposal to reduce agency spending by 5% and a proposal based on 0% growth of current funding.

“This legislation is an important first step in addressing the major problem of continued expansion of government and starting the conversation of meaningful reform to government spending and hiring” said Rep. Hutton. “We have seen our state budget nearly triple from \$26.6 billion in 1991, to \$73.3 billion in our most recent budget. Only recently have we started to address bonding and GPR spending. By having agencies provide us with this information we can have important discussions about what programs are and aren’t working and where spending can be reduced.”

“For too long we have worked on the assumption that all spending from the prior budget is justified,” said Senator Kapenga. “Our current process does not give legislators ample opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of current programming. By giving legislators the necessary information to determine the top priorities of each agency, this reform will help make our budgeting process more transparent and accountable.”

The legislation has 26 cosponsors in the Assembly and Senate. Assembly Bill 534 is scheduled to have a public hearing in the Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations on December 16th. Senate Bill 407 is awaiting a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Government Operations and Consumer Protection.

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