

STATE OF WISCONSIN

SENATE CHAIR
ALBERTA DARLING

317 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Phone: (608) 266-5830



ASSEMBLY CHAIR
JOHN NYGREN

309 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953
Phone: (608) 266-2343

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 15, 2015

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Representative John Nygren, Assembly Chair
Senator Alberta Darling, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Finance

SUBJECT: 2015-17 Budget Procedures for the Joint Committee on Finance

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the process that the Committee will use in reviewing the 2015-17 state budget.

Non-fiscal Policy Items

We have identified 14 non-fiscal policy items contained within the Governor's 2015-17 budget recommendations and believe that they should not be addressed in the budget, but should instead be considered as non-budget legislation by other standing committees. Accordingly, they will not be considered by the Committee during our deliberations on the budget. A list of these items is attached. For each item, the page and item number from the Fiscal Bureau's summary of the budget is shown.

Earmark Transparency Report

Pursuant to 2011 Act 220, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau is required to prepare an earmark transparency report on each biennial budget bill and on each amendment to that bill. The report must include the following elements: (1) a list of all earmarks; (2) the cost of each earmark; (3)

the beneficiary of each earmark, if the Bureau can make this determination, and the assembly and senate district in which the beneficiary resides (for individuals) or is located (for entities); and (4) for a report on a budget amendment, the name of the legislator who proposed the earmark.

Under 2011 Act 220, the Joint Committee on Finance may not vote to recommend passage of the biennial budget bill or an amendment to the bill until the required report, on either the bill or amendment, has been distributed by the Bureau to each member of the Legislature and is made available on the Legislature's website. During the Committee's budget deliberations, a motion to delete an earmark identified in this report shall prevail on either a majority or tie vote.

A copy of the Bureau's earmark transparency report relating to 2015 AB 21/SB 21 and the 2015-17 capital budget recommendations of the Building Commission is attached.

Beginning Point

The Committee will use, as its beginning point, the Governor's recommendations less the non-fiscal policy items. Thus, the Committee will vote to amend the Governor's bill. A proposed change to the bill will require a majority vote to be adopted. A motion to delete an earmark identified in the earmark transparency report shall prevail on either a majority or tie vote.

Executive Sessions

The Committee will hold its first executive session on the budget on Wednesday, April 15. The April 15 meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. in Room 412 East, State Capitol. The agencies scheduled for the executive session at that meeting are listed below.

Secretary of State
Public Service Commission
State Treasurer
Revenue – Lottery Administration
Administration – Division of Gaming
Supreme Court
Circuit Courts
Court of Appeals
Judicial Council
Judicial Commission
Employment Relations Commission

During its executive sessions on the budget, the Committee will work from the following three documents.

1. **LFB Summary of the Governor's Budget Recommendations.** This is the document that we have used during the briefings and public hearings.

2. **LFB Budget Papers.** The Legislative Fiscal Bureau will attempt to distribute its papers at least 72 hours prior to each of the Committee's executive sessions.

Prior to the Committee's April 15 executive session, the Fiscal Bureau will have three large binders delivered to your offices. The LFB papers for each day's executive session will be delivered to your offices in a small three-ring binder. At the end of each executive session, remove the papers from that day, place them in one of the large binders for your record, and return the small binder to the Fiscal Bureau. The Bureau will then place papers for the next meeting in the small binder and return it to you.

Immediately following distribution of the papers to your offices, the Fiscal Bureau will post the papers on its website.

3. **Individual Motions.** Motions will be made from the budget papers or the LFB summary of the Governor's recommendations. If a member of the Committee desires a vote on a budget-related item that is not contained in either the LFB summary or a budget paper, the member should contact the Fiscal Bureau and ask that a motion be prepared on that item. The Bureau will then: (1) prepare the motion; (2) indicate the name of the Committee member who authored the motion on the motion itself; and (3) give the author sufficient copies of the motion for distribution to the entire Committee. The Bureau will keep the motion confidential and will distribute all copies only to the author. This distribution will occur at the commencement of, or during, each executive session. The Chairs will only entertain motions that have been prepared by the Fiscal Bureau.

In order that the Bureau has time to properly prepare the motion and produce sufficient copies for the Committee, members should submit all motion requests at least one day prior to the executive session on each agency or program.

Tribal Gaming Appropriations

Pages 48 thru 50 of the Fiscal Bureau's summary of the budget identify tribal gaming appropriations in the budget that affect a number of agencies. Any proposed changes to those items will be taken up during the executive session of each affected agency or program.

Substitute Amendment

At the conclusion of the Committee's executive sessions on the budget, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau and Legislative Reference Bureau will incorporate the Committee's modifications into a substitute amendment to AB 21/SB 21.

JN/AD/jm
Attachments



NON-FISCAL POLICY 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

Departmentwide

- 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)

