



## Joint Committee on *Finance* SINCE 1911

### Budget Update 4/22/15

#### **Messaging**

After two weeks of JFC meetings, the committee has reduced 26 positions, \$9.7 million in GPR, and \$19.5 million in all funds expenditures from the Governor's budget plan. In addition, the Transportation Fund balance is expected to improve by \$73.5 million.

#### **Agenda Items**

##### **Historical Society**

The committee restored \$52,400 in SEG funding and 1.0 positions to the [Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center](#). (Alt. 2, 16-0) Restoration of the cut was requested in the Governor's budget errata.

A modification to the [State Document Depository Library Exemption](#) was accepted by unanimous request.

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

The committee required the DNR to work with stakeholders to issue a report to JFC by January 1, 2017 to address the imbalance in the [Fish and Wildlife Account](#). (16-0) The committee also deleted \$1,005,100 and 13.75 positions in SEG from the Fish and Wildlife Account to help bring the account back into balance. (12-4)

##### **Repeal Car-killed Deer Appropriations**

The committee restored funding for the Car-Killed Deer program by transferring \$701,400 from forestry SEG. 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. The committee also required DNR to submit a report to JFC and appropriate committees in each house by January 1, 2017 to include recommendations for continuing the program. (16-0)

JFC voted to delete the Class B bear license. 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. (16-0)

Current law requires the DNR to establish a program to make incentive payments to private land owners who allow ATV corridors on their property and apply for funds. However, the DNR has not created a program. JFC voted to [create the program](#). (Alt 1, 12-4)

### **Department of Tourism**

[Kickapoo Valley Reserve and Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board](#) 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. (Alt A2, 4ab, B1,4: 16-0)

### **Marketing Earmarks**

JFC retained marketing earmarks on a one-time basis. It also ordered a study to determine the statewide benefits of earmarks and possible alternatives. (16-0)

### **Department of Transportation -- Fund Condition**

The estimated transportation balance at the close of the 2015-17 budget is expected to increase by \$73.5 million.

#### **Factors Leading to Balance Increase (In Millions)**

Increased Opening Balance	\$20.2
Increased Motor Fuel Tax Revenues	9.2
Decreased Debt Service	43.3
All Other Re-estimates	<u>0.8</u>
Total	\$73.5

### **Department of 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](#). (Alt 2BC 3A, 12-4) Additionally, the Committee modified the governor's recommendation to [waive various fees for holders of military commercial drivers license](#). 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. Alt. 2 (14-2)

JFC voted to 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). (16-0)

### **Department of Transportation -- State Patrol**

The Committee voted unanimously to changes for [State Patrol Overtime Costs](#).

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. (Alt 1, 16-0)

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