



Joint Committee on
Finance
SINCE 1911

Budget Update 5/12/15

Messaging

On Tuesday, the co-chairs of the state's budget-writing Joint Finance Committee (JFC), State Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) and State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette), issued the following statement regarding the JFC Republican members' support for a New Teacher Loan Program and the Minority Teacher Loan Program:

"Teachers can play an incredibly important role in students' lives. Not only do they teach our children how to read and write, but they help instill in Wisconsin students the life skills necessary to grow into successful adults.

We heard from schools that can't recruit good teachers in high demand areas of instruction. Often, these same communities are where educational quality and leadership are needed the most.

Republicans on the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) are making it easier to connect good teachers with communities in need by supporting two budget motions help future teachers repay their student loans.

The JFC revised the Teacher Loan Program. With the changes, aspiring teachers can reduce the financial burden of their student loans by up to 25% per year if they are effective teachers in a high demand field. The Committee made similar changes to the Minority Teacher Loan Program to incentivize the development of minority teachers in high demand subject areas.

We are proud to stand with our Republican colleagues on the JFC and vote in favor of these helpful loan programs; they will certainly be beneficial for aspiring teachers and students in Milwaukee."

Agenda Items

Higher Educational Aids Board

Minnesota-Wisconsin Student Reciprocity (Paper #390)

Item was held over until UW System is taken up.

Wisconsin Covenant Scholars Grant (Paper #391)

Will update the program using new data and delete specialist position linked to the program. (Alt. A2, B1, 16-0)

JFC deleted the teacher education loan program and reinvested the funding in a new forgivable loan program aimed at getting exceptional teachers into high demand areas like Milwaukee. ([Motion#279](#), 12-4)

The Committee repurposed loan money to help recruit minority teachers in high demand/shortage area. It modifies eligibility to the Minority Teacher Loan Program and makes the loan forgivable under certain conditions. ([Motion#286](#), 12-4)

Educational Communications Board

GPR Base Budget Reduction (Paper #265)

JFC restored \$1.6 million per year and 8.6 positions. (Alt. A4, B2,C1,D1,E2, 12-4)

Office of State Employment Relations

Position Reductions (Paper #495)

No action necessary (Governor's position)

Eliminate Office of State Employment Relations and Transfer Functions to the Department of Administration (Paper #496)

The Committee adopted the Governor's recommendations to transfer OSER to DOA and provide an additional 3 positions that were intended to be moved but were left out. (Alt. 1 & 2, 12-4)

Department of Health Services -- Institutions and Mental Health

Contracted Mental Health Services, and DHS Institutions (Paper #375)

Correction to Paper #375

Modification accepted by unanimous consent

Mental Health Crisis Service Grants and Emergency Detention Procedures (Paper #376) JFC modified the definition of who can make assessments for crisis detention. The Department would have more flexibility in determining who can make the assessment. The flexibility is needed for rural areas that have a shortage of people available to make assessments. The Committee also restored Milwaukee County's 24 hour rule for emergency detention and extended the sunset for Milwaukee County's emergency detention pilot program to July 1, 2017. ([Motion#284](#), 16-0)

Consolidate Community Mental Health Programs (Paper #377)

The Committee approved the Governor's motion and required DHS to meet with the Wisconsin Counties Association and mental health stakeholders to develop a plan before distributing funds. That plan will have to come back to JFC under 14-day passive review for approval. (Alt. 2,16-0)

The Committee also deleted a proposed change to the appointment process of the Director of the Office of Children's Mental Health. (16-0)

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Standard Budget Adjustments -- State Agriculture Laboratory

(Paper #135) JFC modified the Governor's plan to reestimate the cost of the State Agricultural Laboratory based on 50% GPR funding. (Alt. 2, 15-0-1 Knudson excused)

Nonpoint Account Management and Conservation Staffing (Paper #136)

The Committee voted to transfer \$675,000 in each year in one time funding from nonpoint account of the environmental fund for county conservation staffing grants. The motion also transferred \$1,000,000 in each year from the agriculture chemical cleanup program to the nonpoint account of the environmental fund. ([Motion#289](#), 11-4-1 Knudson excused)

Long-Term Vacancy Reductions (Paper #137) JFC restored \$132,400 GPR for livestock premises registration. (Alt. 3A, 11-4-1 Knudson excused)

Fertilizer Research Fees and the Fertilizer Research Council (Paper #138)

The Committee deleted the Governor's recommendation. (Fertilizer tonnage fees of 27¢ per ton, and soil and plant additive fees of 10¢ per ton, would be restored, as would the Fertilizer Research Council with \$255,600 to DATCP for receipt of the research fees awarded by the FRC and \$166,300 to UW System in 2016-17). (Alt. 4, 15-0)

Producer-Led Watershed Grants (Paper #139)

JFC approved the Governor's plan to create a Producer-Led Watershed Grant program at DATCP capped at \$250,000 nonpoint SEG. (Alt 1, 2b 3a, 15-0)

Ozone-Depleting Refrigerants Positions (Paper #140)

The Committee deleted \$525,100 PR annually with 6.05 positions for regulation of ozone-depleting refrigerants, and provided the following: (a) \$162,100 petroleum inspection SEG annually with 2.05 positions; and (b) \$265,300 weights and measures PR with 4.0 positions. Additionally, delete \$162,100 petroleum inspection SEG from supplies and services. (Alt. 3, 11-4)

Nonpoint Source Program Grants and Contracts (Paper #141)

JFC made numerous changes to the program. ([Motion #290](#), 12-4)

Nonpoint Source Program Bonding (Paper #142)

The Committee provided \$5,900,000 in bonding authority for the TRM-NOD/NOI programs. In addition, JFC provided \$3,000,000 in bonding authority for the UNPS-MFC programs. (Alt. 2a, b, 12-4)

Environmental Improvement Fund

Safe Drinking Water Loan Program Bonding Authority (Paper #280)

The Committee approved an increase in general obligation bonding authority of \$5,400,000 (based on estimated federal funding of \$37.7 million over two years instead of \$48 million over three years) for the safe drinking water loan program. (Alt. 2, 15-1)

Program Structure Changes (Paper #281)

JFC made numerous changes to the Environmental Improvement Fund. (Alt. A1, B1, C2(striking last sentence), D2d, 12-4)

Clean Water Fund Eligibility for Connection Laterals (Paper #282)

The Committee deleted the Governor's provision. (Alt. 3, 12-4)

Clean Water Fund Eligibility for Unsewered Areas (Paper #283)

No action taken, Governor's position

Safe Drinking Water Loan Eligibility for Certain Private-Owned Systems

(Paper #284) JFC expanded eligibility for financial assistance under the safe drinking water loan program to include private owners of a community water system for a municipality. The Committee required private owners demonstrate that there is adequate security for the repayment of the financial assistance, and comply with the provisions of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, state statutes, and the rules and regulations promulgated under the provisions that DNR specifies. JFC also deleted the bill's expansion of eligibility. In addition, prohibit DNR and DOA from awarding principal forgiveness to private owners of a community water system or nonprofit noncommunity water system that are not systems that serve a municipality. (Alt. 2,3, 16-0)

Up Next

The Joint Committee on Finance will meet in Executive Session on the 2015-17 biennial budget on Thursday, May 14, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in Room 412 East, State Capitol. The Executive Session will be held on the budgets of the following agencies:

Department of Administration -- Hearings and Appeals

Department of Administration -- Information Technology

Investment Board

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board

Department of Children and Families -- Departmentwide

Department of Children and Families -- Children and Families

Department of Children and Families -- Economic Support and Child Care

Department of Children and Families -- Child Support

Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Direct Aid Payments

Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Property Taxation

Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Property Tax Credits

Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Local Revenue Options
