



Joint Committee on *Finance* SINCE 1911

Budget Update 5/14/15

Messaging

Republican leaders on the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) announced the rejection of Governor Walker's proposed long term care changes, while pursuing limited reforms with strong legislative oversight. Rep. Dean Knudson (R-Hudson) and Sen. Leah Vukmir (R-Wauwatosa) unveiled the changes alongside JFC Co-chairs Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette) and Sen. Alberta Darling (R-River Hills).

In removing the Governor's changes to FamilyCare and IRIS, the legislators proposed giving the Department of Health Services (DHS) limited authority to negotiate with the Federal Government on potential changes to FamilyCare to integrate long term and medical care, with the following requirements:

- Require public and stakeholder input before any changes are made.
- Require self-directed care with budget authority, to be defined in statute.
- Require a regional model with multiple Integrated Health Agencies (IHAs) per region.
- Require an independent actuarial study to set rates.
- Require the acceptance of "any willing provider" for a multi-year transition.
- Preserve ADRC services.
- Require final approval of any waiver application by the Joint Finance Committee before submission to the Federal Government.

This plan requires public input, includes a self-directed option, and gives patients choice between competing providers. Integration of care provides better care for customers and doctors, as well as a better value for taxpayers.

Agenda Items

Administration -- Hearings and Appeals

[Hearings and Appeals Consolidation and Funding](#) (Paper #120)
JFC accepted the Governor's position.

Administration -- Information Technology

[Information Technology Security Expenditure Authority](#) (Paper #125)
The Committee accepted the Governor's provision.

[Information Technology Positions and Equipment Transfer Authority](#)
(Paper #126) JFC deleted the proposal. (Alt. 2, 16-0)

[Consolidation of Telecommunications and IT Appropriations](#) (Paper #127)
JFC reduced DOA's spending authority by \$8 million PR annually. (Alt. 2c, 11-4)

[Technology for Educational Achievement Program](#) (Paper #128)
The Committee adopted a motion to incorporate Alt. 2 of paper #128 and provide additional funding to assist rural schools to improve their IT infrastructure. ([Motion#327](#), 16-0)

Investment Board

No action taken, Governor's provision stays.

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board

No action taken, Governor's position stands

Children and Families -- Departmentwide

[Milwaukee Offender Re-entry Program](#) (Paper #195)
JFC followed the recommendation of the administration and decreased funding by \$978,000 PR annually to remove revenue that was mistakenly included in DCF's reestimate of program revenue. (Alt. 1, 12-4)

[Position and Funding Realignment](#) (Paper #196)
Modification accepted by unanimous consent.

The Committee required all state agencies to self-evaluate what expenditures can be reduced and report back to JFC by December 1, 2015. Further, JFC authorized DCF to issue a request for proposals for a pay-per-performance contract that after 5 years can show a reduction in recidivism of offenders living in Milwaukee who have reentered the community. The contract will provide no payment unless a certain minimum of success is demonstrated. ([Motion#344](#), 13-3)

Children and Families -- Children and Families

[Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare - Restructuring](#) (Paper #200)
JFC approved the Governor's recommendation to restructure the Bureau as the Division of Milwaukee Child Welfare within DCF and made clarification to the administrator position. ([Motion#374](#), 12-4)

[Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare - Staffing](#) (Paper #201)

The Committee approved the Governor's recommendation and provided an increase of 11.0 full time positions at BMCW. In addition, JFC added \$500,000 GPR annually to the Committee's general purpose revenue funds general program supplementation appropriation for enhanced employee retention policies at BMCW consistent with the 2015-17 compensation plan adopted by JOCER. (A1, B1, C2, 12-4)

[Milwaukee Child Welfare Aids](#) (Paper #202)

JFC made several modifications to increase funding of the Governor's recommendation. (Alt. A2c, B1, C2, 14-2)

[Out-of-Home Care Extension](#) (Paper #203)

Modification accepted by unanimous request.

[Domestic Abuse Services](#) (Paper #204)

The Committee accepted the Governor's position adding \$5,000,000 GPR in funding for domestic abuse grants in 2016-17, (Alt. 1, 16-0)

[Services for Victims of Sex Trafficking](#) (Paper #205)

JFC approved the Governor's recommendation to increase funding for services for victims of sex trafficking by \$2,000,000 GPR in 2016-17. (Alt.1, 16-0)

The Committee also required DCF to develop a plan to engage non-profit volunteer programs to provide temporary host families as an alternative to foster care. ([Motion#329](#), 15-1)

JFC also directed the department money from the Brighter Future Grant Initiative to help reduce the effects of adverse childhood experiences. ([Motion#343](#), 16-0)

The Committee also increased funding for post-adoption resource centers by \$225,000 GPR in 2016-17. ([Motion#372](#), 12-4)

Children and Families -- Economic Support and Child Care

[Revised Estimates for TANF -Related Programs](#) (Paper #210)

Modification was accepted by unanimous request.

[Wisconsin Works Lifetime Benefit Limit](#) (Paper #211)

The Committee accepted the Governor's provision.

[W-2 Sanctions](#) (Paper #212)

JFC modified the Governor's recommendation such that statutorily required notice and opportunity to rectify would not be required for actions predicated upon W-2 financial and non-financial eligibility criteria (such as a child becoming 18 years old or the participant moving out of the state). Actions predicated on sanctions which would terminate a participant's eligibility or reduce a participant's benefits by 20% or more (such as non-participation in an employment position or non-cooperation with child support requirements) would require notice and opportunity to rectify. (Alt. 2, 12-4)

[Work Program Wage Subsidies \(Paper #213\)](#)

The Committee approved the Governor's position.

[State Administration of Wisconsin Works and Other TANF-Related Programs \(Paper #214\)](#)

JFC approved the Governor's proposal and modified it to provide 4.0 positions and \$246,100 in 2015-16 and \$328,100 in 2016-17 to assist in implementing the IEVS corrective compliance plan. (Alt. A1, B5, 16-0)

[TANF Funding for the Earned Income Tax Credit \(Paper #215\)](#)

The Committee saved \$12,300,000 GPR by switching the EITC to federal funds. (Alt. 3c, 12-4)

JFC provided \$75,000 annually for grants to the Wisconsin Boys and Girls Club to help improve academic, social, and employment skills of children who are eligible for TANF. The motion also provides \$75,000 to the Green Bay Boys and Girls Club's BE GREAT program. ([Motion#342](#), 16-0)

JFC transferred \$242,000 FED from TANF to help develop general education development testing. ([Motion#349](#), 16-0)

The Committee also supported funding for adult literacy grants. ([Motion#365](#), 16-0)

JFC also provided \$500,000 annually to assist low-income families to get civil legal services related to domestic abuse, sexual abuse, restraining orders and injunctions. ([Motion#370](#), 16-0)

Children and Families -- Child Support

JFC allows DCF to close child support cases where less than \$500 is owed or no payment has been collected for three years. ([Motion#345](#), 16-0)

Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Direct Aid Payments

[State Aid for Tax Exempt Computers, Cash Registers, and Fax Machines \(Paper #590\)](#)

Modification accepted with unanimous consent.

[Public Utility Aid -- Sum Sufficient Reestimate \(Paper #591\)](#)

Modification accepted by unanimous request

Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Property Tax Credits

[School Levy Tax Credit Increase \(Paper #595\)](#)

Item was held over

[Homestead Tax Credit Reestimate \(Paper #596\)](#)

Modification accepted by unanimous request

[Farmland Preservation Per-Acre Credit Reestimate \(Paper #597\)](#)

Modification accepted by unanimous request

[First Dollar Credit Reestimate \(Paper #598\)](#)

Governor's proposal accepted

Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Property Taxation

Property Tax Bill Information (Paper #600)

The Committee gave taxpayers more transparency on their property tax bills by requiring to show the increase of any referendums that exceed levy limits. ([Motion#379](#), 12-4)

JFC made changes to definitions relating to municipal recovery of expenses in sidewalk repair and construction. ([Motion#367](#), 15-1)

The Committee gave municipalities an incentive to not "tax to the max" ([Motion#301](#), 16-0)

JFC helped clarify the expenditure restraint program for municipalities that share services. ([Motion#383](#), 16-0)

The Committee made adjustments to bidding and noticing requirements for local governments ([Motion#369](#), 12-4)

JFC supported a measure to encourage cooperation between local unites of governments. ([Motion#316](#), 16-0)

The Committee created a new method for towns to incorporate as a village - allowing the town of Windsor to do so. ([Motion#299](#), 12-4)

Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Local Revenue Options

JFC approved a motion specific to the City of Rhinelander which provides the city an exemption to the requirement that 40% of their equalized value be used by tourism-related retailers in order to declare themselves a premier report area. ([Motion#339](#), 12-4)

Up Next

The Joint Committee on Finance will meet in Executive Session on the 2015-17 biennial budget on Tuesday, May 19, 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:

Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority.
Medical College of Wisconsin
Budget Management and Compensation Reserves
Department of Employee Trust Funds
Drug Screening and Testing
DOC - Departmentwide
DOC - Adult Corrections
DOC - Community Corrections
DOC - Juvenile Corrections
DPI - General School Aids and Revenue Limits
DPI - Categorical Aids
DPI - Choice, Charter, and Open Enrollment
DPI - District Operations and Standards
DPI - Administrative and Other Funding
