



Joint Committee on *Finance* SINCE 1911

Budget Update 5/21/15

Messaging

MADISON - On Thursday, 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's decision to save SeniorCare:

"When we began our work in Joint Finance this budget season, we held public hearings on the governor's proposed budget in the proverbial "four corners of the state." At these public hearings, we listened to the opinions of Wisconsin residents. Time and time again, the public shared with us their concerns with the proposed changes to our state's SeniorCare program. Now that we have heard from Wisconsinites around the state and our Republican colleagues in the Legislature, we are addressing their concerns and saving SeniorCare.

"SeniorCare is an important prescription drug program for our state's seniors. While many elderly people are limited to fixed incomes and tight budgets, SeniorCare helps them to afford the prescription drugs they need. This program is unique to our state, and it's clear that Wisconsin residents value these benefits.

"Today's decision will maintain current funding for the SeniorCare program. We believe it's critically important to make sure that this program remains affordable for the seniors who utilize it. It is for this reason that we froze enrollment fees and drug co-pays at the current levels. This decision helps to ensure that our state's elderly population will be able to continue to afford their prescription medications."

Agenda Items

Government Accountability Board

Governor's position accepted

Department of Financial Institutions and Professional Standards

Department of Financial Institutions

Eliminate Long-Term Vacancies (Paper #290)

GPR-Earned Reestimate (Paper #291)

Safety and Professional Services -- Agencywide Provisions

Standard Budget Adjustments (Paper #570)

Increase Credential Periods, Fee Payments in Installments (Paper #571)

Fire Department Dues Distribution Reestimate (Paper #572)

Department of Safety and Professional Services -- Program Transfers

Long-Term Vacancies (Paper #575)

Transfer Veterinary Examining Board to the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (Paper #576)

Transfer Regulation of Tattooing, Body Piercing, and Tanning to the Department of Financial Institutions and Professional Services (Paper #577)

Forward Wisconsin Development Authority/Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

Regional Revolving Loan Fund Grant Program (Paper #300)

Exceptions to the Open Records Law (Paper #301)

Reporting Requirements of Grant and Loan Recipients (Paper #302)

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority

JFC passed an omnibus motion affecting DFI, DSPS, WEDC, WHEDA. The motion deletes several transfers and mergers and makes numerous other changes saving \$55 million. Item #38 was removed by unanimous consent. ([Motion#494](#), 12-4)

Department of Health Services -- Departmentwide

Eliminate Long-Term Vacancies (Paper #385)

Federal Revenue Reestimates (Paper #386)

Funding and Position Transfers (Paper #387)

Health Services -- Medical Assistance -- General

[MA Cost-to-Continue \(Paper #345\)](#)

[SeniorCare -- Cost to Continue \(Paper #346\)](#)

[SeniorCare -- Required Medicare Part D Application and Enrollment \(Paper #347\)](#)

[Disproportionate Share Hospital Payments \(Paper #348\)](#)

[Reimbursement Rates for Federally Qualified Health Centers \(Paper #349\)](#)

[Independent Assessment Requirement for Personal Care Services \(Paper #350\)](#)

[Enhanced Dental Services Reimbursement Pilot Program \(Paper #351\)](#)

[MA Coverage of Residential Based Substance Abuse Treatment Services \(Paper #352\)](#)

[Include Drugs in Managed Care Contracts \(Paper #353\)](#)

[BadgerCare Plus Coverage for Childless Adults \(Paper #354\)](#)

The Committee passed an omnibus motion addressing MA and DHS Departmentwide. The motion makes numerous changes including restoring SeniorCare. ([Motion#495](#), 12-4)

Up Next

The Joint Committee on Finance will meet in Executive Session on the 2015-17 biennial budget twice next week. The Executive Sessions will be held on the budgets of the following agencies:

[Administration -- Transfers](#)

[Blood Withdrawals -- Intoxicated and Reckless Flying Violations](#)

[Building Commission](#)

[Building Program](#)

[General Fund Taxes -- Income and Franchise Taxes](#)

[General Fund Taxes -- Sales and Excise Taxes](#)

[Natural Resources -- Departmentwide](#)

[Program Supplements](#)

[Revenue -- Departmentwide](#)

[Revenue -- Tax Administration](#)

[Sports and Entertainment District](#)

[Tourism -- Office of Marketing](#)

[Transportation -- Transportation Finance](#)

[Transportation Bond Summary and Pledge of Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax](#)

[Transportation -- Local Transportation Aid](#)

[Transportation -- Local Transportation Assistance](#)

[Transportation -- State Highway Program](#)

[Workforce Development -- Worker's Compensation](#)