



Joint Committee on *Finance* SINCE 1911

Budget Update 5/27/15

Messaging

JFC REPUBLICANS PROTECT LONG TERM CARE Members Develop a Plan that Works for Patients and Taxpayers

MADISON-On Wednesday, Republican leaders on the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) released their plan to give the Department of Health Services (DHS) limited authority to pursue a waiver from the Federal Government for Wisconsin's long-term care services. Rep. Dean Knudson (R-Hudson) and Sen. Leah Vukmir (R-Wauwatosa) unveiled the details of the plan alongside JFC Co-chairs Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette) and Sen. Alberta Darling (R-River Hills).

"Earlier this year, members of the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) traveled throughout the state to hold public hearings on the 2015-17 state budget. At each of these public hearings, Wisconsinites expressed concerns with the governor's proposed changes to long-term care.

"We listened to people from around the state and heard their concerns loud and clear," said Rep. Nygren. "The governor's long-term care plan was lacking in detail; it's for this reason that we are rejecting his proposal in favor of a new plan."

The plan will integrate long-term and medical care to ensure better care for patients, customers, and doctors, as well as a better value for hardworking Wisconsin taxpayers.

"The goal of this plan is to deliver quality health care options for our most vulnerable," said Rep. Knudson. "The proposal defines self-directed care in statute, requires public input, and will provide doctors and patients with improved health coordination and outcomes."

"Creating an integrated program is the future of Family Care," added Sen. Vukmir. "We will improve health outcomes and create greater efficiencies."

"The goal is a more efficient and better run system," Darling said, "That's exactly what our plan will do, because we are seeking solutions from people directly affected by the program"

Once the budget is voted on and approved by the full Legislature, it will be sent to the governor for his signature. Shortly after, DHS will begin negotiations with the Federal Government to pursue a waiver and sustain long-term care services for Wisconsin's most vulnerable populations.

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Agenda Items

Blood Withdrawals -- Intoxicated and Reckless Flying Violations

Building Commission

GPR Debt Service Reestimate (Paper #175)

Short Term Debt Restructuring (Paper #176)

Building Program

Non-State Projects in 2015-17 State Building Program (Paper #180)

Program Supplements

Department of Administration -- Transfers

Provider of Information Technology Services for Certain Agencies (Paper #110)

Shared Agency Services Pilot Program (Paper #111)

Transfer of State Energy Office and Relocation Assistance Program for Public Service Commission (Paper #112)

Transfer Vacant Positions for Information Technology Procurement (Paper #113)

Office of Government Continuity (Paper #114)

Department of Tourism -- Office of Marketing

Office of Marketing (Paper #627)

JFC approved a motion to make various changes to the Room Tax. ([Motion#516](#), 9-7)

Department of Workforce Development -- Worker's Compensation

Transfer of Worker's Compensation Division Functions from OCI and DHA (Paper #735)

Changes to Supplemental Benefit Reimbursements and Payments from the Uninsured Employers Fund (Paper #736)

Department of Workforce Development -- Unemployment Insurance

[Increase Penalties for UI Fraud](#) (Paper #741)

[Suitable Work Definition](#) (Paper #742)

JFC offered an omnibus motion affecting Building Commission, Building Program, DOA - Transfers, Tourism - Office of Marketing, DWD - Worker's Compensation, and DWD - Unemployment Insurance. ([Motion#509](#), 12-4)

Department of Health Services -- Long-Term Care Services

[Long Term Care Changes](#) (Paper #356)

[ADRCs and Long-Term Care Advisory Councils](#) (Paper #357)

[Statewide Expansion of Family Care and IRIS](#) (Paper #358)

[Children's Community Options Program](#) (Paper #359)

[Dementia Care Specialists](#) (Paper #360)

[Children's Long-Term Care Services](#) (Paper #361)

[MA Reimbursement for Nursing Homes](#) (Paper #362)

The Committee supported an omnibus motion affecting Long-Term Care which includes a state-wide expansion of Family Care. ([Motion#513 modified by unanimous consent](#), 12-4)

Up Next

The Joint Committee on Finance will meet again on the following issues:

General Fund Taxes - Income and Franchise Taxes
General Fund Taxes - Sales and Excise Taxes
Department of Natural Resources - Departmentwide
Department of Revenue - Departmentwide
Department of Revenue - Tax Administration
Sports and Entertainment District
Department of Transportation - Transportation Finance
Department of Transportation - Local Transportation Aid
Department of Transportation - Local Transportation Assistance
Department of Transportation - State Highways Program
University of Wisconsin System
