

# a **CLOSER** **LOOK** at the *2015-17 State Budget*



## **UW System**

- Removes Public Authority model to maintain the current UW System governance model
- Reduces proposed budget reduction by \$50 million over the biennium
- Freezes resident undergraduate tuition for two years
- Restores funding for:
  - Rural physician residency assistance program
  - Physician and dentist and healthcare loan assistance programs
  - Environmental program grants and scholarships
  - Discovery Farms grants program
- Allows Board of Regents to implement a merit pay system utilizing existing funds
- Modifies shared governance to maintain a role for faculty, staff, and students while providing chancellors with better ability to manage university operations
- Removes tenure from state statute to enable the Board of Regents to manage tenure policies
- Modifies public records law to require only the names of applicants for UW positions who are seriously considered for appointment and whose name is submitted for final consideration be subject to open records requests
- Provides UW System with the following flexibilities:
  - Exempts UW System from state printing law
  - Exempts UW System from Building Commission approval if the project is
    - Funded entirely with gifts and grants
    - Let by UW System using the current law single prime contracting process
  - Authorizes the Board of Regents to lease real property for use by the UW System
  - Allows UW System to seek better investment opportunities for gift, grant, and donation funds, provided the Board of Regents does one of the following:

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- Directly employs a financial manager to oversee the investment fund,
  - Contracts with SWIB to manage the funds, or
  - Selects a private investment firm using a RFP process
- Requires the Board of Regents to identify accountability measures in the following areas and submit them to the appropriate standing committees in each house for review:
    - Financial management
    - Administrative management
    - Educational performance
    - Research and economic development
  - Retains the State Hygiene Lab and Veterinary Diagnostic Lab attachment to UW System