WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Room 412 East, State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

January 18, 2006
8:40 - 9:00 a.m.

[The following is a summary of the January 18, 2006 meeting of the Joint Legislative Council. The file copy of this summary has appended to it a copy of each document prepared for or submitted to the committee during the meeting and a copy of the registration form listing those who attended. A digital recording of the meeting is available on our Web site at **http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc**.]

Call to Order and Roll Call

Co-Chair Lasee called the meeting to order. The roll was called and a quorum was noted present.

He said that upon completion of today's meeting, all of this interim's study committees will have reported.

He reminded the Council members that due to the lateness of this legislative session, if some bills do not advance in the process, they will consider reintroduction next year.

Next, he pointed out that the Special Committees on Election Law Review and the Powers and Duties of Coroners and Medical Examiners reported and were discussed at the December meeting. He stated that final votes would be taken today on these two committees. Upon action on these reports, he and Co-Chair Wieckert would be making some comments about this summer's study committees.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	Sen. Alan Lasee and Rep. Steve Wieckert, Co-Chairs; Sens. Ronald Brown, Russell Decker, Scott Fitzgerald, Glenn Grothman, Dan Kapanke, Mark Miller, Fred Risser, Judith Robson, Dale Schultz and David Zien; and Reps. John Ainsworth, Stephen Freese, Michael Huebsch, Dean Kaufert, Jim Kreuser, Ann Nischke, Mark Pocan and Marlin Schneider.
COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Reps. John Gard and David Travis.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: Terry C. Anderson, Director; Robert Conlin, Don Salm and Russ Whitesel, Senior Staff Attorneys; Dan Schmidt, Senior Analyst; and Kelly Mautz and Wendy Ulrich, Administrative Assistants.

APPEARANCES: Sen. Joseph Leibham, Chair, Special Committee on Election Law Review; and Rep. Ann Nischke, Chair, Special Committee on the Powers and Duties of Coroners and Medical Examiners.

Approval of the Minutes of the Committee's December 14, 2005 Meeting

Co-Chair Lasee asked for a motion to approve the December 14, 2005 minutes of the Joint Legislative Council.

> *Co-Chair Wieckert moved, seconded by Sen. Schultz, that the minutes of the December 14, 2005 meeting be approved. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.*

Committee Report of the Special Committee on Election Law Review

Senator Joseph Leibham, Chair, Special Committee on Election Law Review, briefly described a memorandam dated January 18, 2006, distributed at the Council members' places that described amendments to LRB-3947/1 that were being offered after discussions with other legislators and the Governor's office.

Senator Decker asked if the amended legislation would be out of drafting soon. Senator Leibham responded that he thought it would be as instructions have already been sent to the Legislative Reference Bureau to incorporate the changes into LRB-3947/1.

Senator Risser asked Senator Leibham if he thought the effective date of the draft was realistic. Senator Leibham indicated it was very realistic with speedy action by the Legislature.

After this brief discussion:

> *Co-Chair Wieckert moved, seconded by Sen. Schultz, that LRB-3947/1, relating to administration of elections; providing exemptions from and extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures; granting rule-making authority; and providing penalties, be approved by the Joint Legislative Council with amendments described in the memorandum dated January 18, 2006. The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes, 19 (Sens. Lasee, Brown, Fitzgerald, Grothman, Kapanke, Miller, Risser, Robson, Schultz and Zien; and Reps. Wieckert, Ainsworth, Freese, Huebsch, Kaufert, Kreuser, Nischke, Pocan and Schneider); Noes, 1 (Sen. Decker); and Excused, 2 (Reps. Gard and Travis).*

[Reps. Gard and Travis noted that had they been present, they would have voted "aye" on LRB-3947/1.]

Before moving to the next agenda item, Terry Anderson, Director, Legislative Council staff, announced that Bob Conlin, who staffed the Special Committee on Election Law Review, will be leaving the Council at the end of the month. Bob has accepted a position with the Department of Employee Trust Funds. The Council members applauded and wished him good luck.

Committee Report of the Special Committee on the Powers and Duties of Coroners and Medical Examiners

Representative Ann Nischke, Chair, Special Committee on the Powers and Duties of Coroners and Medical Examiners, reported that she has met with members of the Joint Legislative Council regarding their concerns with the constitutional amendment in LRB-4127/P1. She indicated that many members would like to have additional recommendations from the special committee relating to possible changes in the coroner system if the constitutional amendment is ratified. She stated that based on these discussions, she feels that it would be best if the special committee were to have at least one more meeting to develop these additional recommendations, most of which were discussed by the special committee during its three meetings. She thought that the committee would be ready to report to the Council at its meeting in April.

After a brief discussion:

Senator Risser moved, seconded by Rep. Schneider, that the Special Committee on the Powers and Duties of Coroners and Medical Examiners continue their work and report to the Council at a later date. The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes, 20 (Sens. Lasee, Brown, Decker, Fitzgerald, Grothman, Kapanke, Miller, Risser, Robson, Schultz and Zien; and Reps. Wieckert, Ainsworth, Freese, Huebsch, Kaufert, Kreuser, Nischke, Pocan and Schneider); Noes, 0; and Excused, 2 (Reps. Gard and Travis).

[Reps. Gard and Travis noted that had they been present, they would have voted "aye" to continue the work of this special committee.]

Review of 2006 Study Selection Process

Co-Chair Wieckert began by saying that it is time for the Council to begin the process of establishing new study committees. The Co-Chairs want to keep the Council members informed and involved as they go through this process. To begin the process, he said, each member of the Legislature will receive today a study request form asking for their ideas.

Co-Chair Wieckert announced that one special event each month is planned for the spring.

In February, the Council will host a symposium featuring a presentation by Clark Miller, La Follette School, on "the Future of Technology Development and its Impact on State Legislation." Later

in March, a second symposium will include a presentation by Lee Anderson, General Mills Corporation, on "Total You: Healthy Lifestyle Programs at the Workplace."

Finally, in April, there will be a Council meeting to take a "straw ballot" vote on the Co-Chairs' recommendations for 2006 studies. At that meeting, the Council will also hear Mr. Richard Matoon, Federal Reserve Bank, Chicago, presenting an "Economic Forecast for Wisconsin and the Midwest."

He said it is the Co-Chairs' hope to have a mail ballot circulated in early May to establish the 2006 special study committees and their chairs and have a final mail ballot in early June establishing the membership of the 2006 special study committees. It is their goal to have these committees begin meeting in July.

He mentioned that, to date, the Council has received 13 requests for studies. Similar to last interim, the Council is faced with the task of doing the study program with less money. The current fiscal concerns will force the Council to not only conduct fewer studies, but also maintain smaller committees.

Other Business

There was no other business to come before the Joint Legislative Council.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

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