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BUDGET TRANSPARENCY ACT

Public participation on bills through the public hearing process improves the quality of the bills that we as a legislative body pass. It allows interested parties to review the legislation and express sometimes unknown points-of-view. Furthermore, this process increases public trust in government and enhances respect for the legislative process.

For these reasons, it might be wise to codify a similar notice procedure for action that may be considered by the Joint Committee on Finance as we do for other legislative action.

For the most part the Joint Committee on Finance follows a notice procedure, but there have been circumstances where the Committee has departed from previously noticed options and has made decisions with financial or policy impacts without prior notification to the public. The “999” motion might come to mind. This bill would apply to all motions that the Finance Committee would take up on the biennial budget, as well as other finance matters.

This bill, fashioned off of a model policy offered by the American Legislative Exchange Council on their public website, creates a 48-hour budget review provision which would apply to Joint Finance Committee actions. Any motion that a JFC member would like to introduce would need to be prepared and distributed at least 48 hours before a vote. To ensure that motions would be properly drafted, requests would need to be submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau early enough for motions to be prepared and reviewed with the authors to ensure intent and accuracy.

It is important to note that there is an emergency waiver provision in the bill.



State of Wisconsin
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3260/1
RAC:emw

2017 BILL

1 **AN ACT to create** 13.102 (3) of the statutes; **relating to:** Joint Committee on
2 Finance consideration of motions relating to the biennial budget bill.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The bill provides that the Joint Committee on Finance may not consider or take executive action on any motion relating to the biennial budget bill unless the motion has been distributed to all members of JCF at least 48 hours before JCF considers or takes executive action on the motion. The motion must also be posted on the Legislative Fiscal Bureau Internet site at least 48 hours before JCF considers or takes executive action on the motion.

The provisions of the bill, however, do not apply to a motion that relates to an emergency, as determined by three-fourths of the members of JCF, or to a motion that contains minor substantive differences from a motion that has met the bill's requirements.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 13.102 (3) of the statutes is created to read:
4 13.102 (3) (a) Except as provided in par. (b), the joint committee on finance may
5 not consider or take executive action on any motion relating to the biennial budget

BILL

1 bill unless the motion has been distributed to all members of the committee at least
2 48 hours before the committee considers or takes executive action on the motion. The
3 motion must also be posted on the legislative fiscal bureau Internet site at least 48
4 hours before the committee considers or takes executive action on the motion. For
5 the purpose of calculating the 48-hour requirements under this paragraph,
6 Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays specified in s. 230.35 (4) (a) are excluded.

7 (b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to any of the following:

8 1. A motion relating to an emergency, as determined by three-fourths of the
9 members of the joint finance committee.

10 2. A motion that contains minor substantive differences from a motion that met
11 the requirements under par. (a).

12 (END)