



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

## Budget Update 5/7/15

### Messaging

Despite a challenging national economic forecast, Wisconsin's revenue collections remain steady according to the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau. The Bureau says collections are on target from previous estimates and future growth for Wisconsin is expected around 4-5%.

"Budgeting is about priorities. This session, as in the past, it's our top priority to invest in K-12 education and continue to protect Wisconsin taxpayers.

"Wisconsinites are better off today because of the prudent financial decisions we made last budget. We've already returned over \$2 billion to the hardworking taxpayers of our state. This budget, we will build upon these reforms to continue moving Wisconsin in the right direction.

"As we move forward with the budget process, we will remain dedicated to investing in public education, protecting taxpayers, and growing our state's workforce."

So far, JFC has:

- Reduced all funds by \$32.5 million
- Reduced GPR spending by \$29 million
- Reduced the number of FTE positions by 33

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### Agenda Items

#### [Workforce Development -- Departmentwide](#)

Governor Walker and Republican JFC members are trying to get workforce development and career development under one roof and connect the real world of work to education.

#### [Expansion of Wisconsin Fast Forward](#)

The Committee voted to modify the Governor's motion and have DWD administer the CTE grant program as it was under DPI. (Alt A2,B2,C3, 15-1)

JFC supported a motion to help former inmates succeed after their time is served. ([Motion#219](#), 16-0)

## [Transfer Independent Living Grant Funding to DHS](#)

Modification accepted by unanimous consent.

## [Transfer Veterans Employment Programs to DVA](#)

The Committee moved Alt. 1 and made a technical change to preserve grant funding that is available. ([Motion#229](#), 16-0)

## [Elimination of Long-Term Vacancies](#)

JFC modified the Governor's vacancy elimination to include salary and fringe benefits associated with the positions that will be deleted. (Alt. 2, 16-0)

## [Board of Commissioners of Public Lands](#)

[Payment of Aids in Lieu of Taxes on Land Purchased from Department of Natural Resources](#) The Committee voted to adopt the Governor's recommendations with a few technical modifications (Alt. 2, 16-0)

## [Natural Resources -- Parks and Forestry](#)

### [Forestry Account Overview](#)

No action necessary

### [Parks Funding and Fee Increase](#)

[Tourism is up \\$1 billion since 2013 in Wisconsin](#). To accommodate the influx of visitors, the committee voted to increase fees associated with state parks. Vehicle admission fees would increase by \$3. Bus admissions would rise \$1. State trail passes would be \$5 for day pass and \$25 for an annual pass. Base fees for camping would be \$15-\$20 for residents and \$19-\$25 for non-residents. The fees will be set by the DNR Secretary. The Secretary would also be able to raise the nightly camping fees \$5 above these ranges. Campsite electric fees would go from \$5 to \$10. Fees would go into effect in January 2016. ([Motion#196](#), 12-4)

### [State Park, Forestry, and Riverway Roads](#)

The committee restored \$2,000,000 GPR for road projects in state parks and forests beginning in 2016-17. (Alt. 2b1, 12-4)

### [Parks and Southern Forests Operations](#)

JFC adopted the Governor's proposal with corrections and deleted \$3,000 SEG from a delayed shower/toilet project at Wyalusing State Park (Alt 2, 12-4)

### [Urban Forestry Grant Eligibility](#)

The Committee voted to maintain current law under this program. (Alt. A2, 16-0)

### [Managed Forest Law Timber Cutting Notices](#)

The Committee voted to adopt Alt. 1 and included measures to speed up the cutting notice process. Delays in cutting notices have led to low wood supplies at mills. ([Motion#240](#), 12-4)

JFC adopted an omnibus motion which funds the Good Neighbor Authority program, changes to the Managed Forest Law, and changes to the Northern State Forest Master Plans. This motion also specifies that the DNR may not automatically enroll designated MFL land in a certified group, instead of

automatically being enrolled in the certification and having to opt out. ([Motion#242](#), 12-4)

## [Administration -- General Agency Provisions](#)

### [Eliminate Long-Term Vacancies](#)

The Committee voted to eliminate \$6,288,200 in all funds, 2.6 GPR positions, 2.0 FED positions, 41.85 PR positions, 1.2 SEG positions and eliminate all positions left open for more than 12 months. (Alt. 2, 12-4)

### [Eau Claire Confluence Development Project](#)

JFC deleted \$15 million allocated for the project and required a report on any need for state assistance be submitted to the Building Commission by June 30, 2017. ([Motion#223](#), 12-4)

### [Office of Lean Government](#)

Adopt Alt. 1, and delete statutory provision creating an Office of Lean Government ([Motion#204](#), 12-4)

### [Prison Industries Procurement Pricing](#)

Item held over.

### [Federal Surplus Property Program](#)

The committee deleted the Governor's provision and instead funded the provision using program revenue generated by customer fees. (Alt. 5b, 16-0)

### [Diesel Truck Idling reduction Grant Program](#)

JFC approved the program's extension until 2020.

Certification for Energy Efficient Building Designer Tax Deduction  
JFC approved a motion to require the DOA to provide any necessary certification for a tax deduction to a person who is the primary designer of an energy efficient building on state property. ([Motion#205](#), 16-0)

The Committee moved \$5,000,000 from DOA's Capital planning and building construction services appropriation to the General Fund ([Motion#217](#), 15-1)

## [Justice](#)

### [Eliminate Long-Term Vacancies and Federal Funding Reduction](#)

The Committee modified the Governor's proposal (Alt. 2A, 4, 16-0)

### [State Justice Assistance Grants](#)

JFC deleted the state justice assistance grant program. The committee shifted the funding to more effective programs. (Motion#200, 12-4)

### [Penalty Surcharge Fund](#)

The committee approved the Governor's recommendation and changed how left over appropriations would be treated. (Alt. B1, 12-4)

### [Justice Information System Surcharge Fund](#)

JFC modified the Governor's proposal. (Alt. A2, B1, C1, 12-4)

### [Office of the Solicitor General](#)

The committee modified the Governor's plan and eliminated 4.0 position vacancies from DOJ. ([Motion#249](#), 14-2)

[Crime Victim Compensation Hearings and Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Hearings](#) The committee deleted the Governor's position. (Alt 6, 16-0)

[Interagency and Intra-Agency Assistance and Delinquent Obligation Collection](#) JFC modified the Governor's proposal to make it a continuing appropriation. (A1, B2, 12-4)

[Law Enforcement Officer-Involved Death Investigations](#)  
The Committee voted to add 4 positions to conduct investigating officer involved incidents . ([Motion#231](#), 16-0)

[Crime Prevention Funding Board](#)  
JFC modified Alternative 2 to allow counties to create crime prevention funding boards and charge a \$20 surcharge. ([Motion#243](#), 12-4)

The Committee passed a technical correction to add Marquette University Police Officers to the statutes. ([Motion#199](#), 16-0)

They also added a grant to the Lafayette County Sheriff's department to hire an officer dedicated to drug enforcement. ([Motion#234](#), 16-0)

JFC provided \$80,000 in grants to support for the Wisconsin Court Appointed Special Advocate Association. ([Motion#246](#), 16-0)

The Committee added \$100,000 GPR to DOJ in 2016-17 for grants under the sexual assault victim services grant program. ([Motion#239](#), 16-0)

## Up Next

The Joint Committee on Finance will meet in Executive Session on the 2015-17 biennial budget on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in Room 412 East, State Capitol. The Executive Session will be held on the budgets of the following agencies:

Higher Educational Aids Board  
Educational Communications Board  
Office of State Employment Relations  
Department of Health Services -- Institutions and Mental Health  
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
Environmental Improvement Fund

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