

Floor Session Media Coverage, March 22, 2023 (1/2)

Major Bills: conversion therapy ban rule suspension; bail reform trailer bill; reckless driving, penalty enhancers for those distributing certain substances that lead to death; resolution calling for special election for new Secretary of State

Media Coverage

MJS: [Reckless driving bill sent to Evers, who signals he will sign into law](#) Evers said Wednesday he would sign both bills into law. "Both bills are adequate, and they get at the issue. ... Do I think it will end it? Probably not," Evers told CBS 58 Wednesday morning. "But it is a step forward."

Senate GOP call for special election for new Secretary of State

"Their actions don't match their words. This governor has gone to historic lengths to limit participation in Wisconsin's elections," LeMahieu said.

Sen. Kelda Roys, D-Madison, called Republicans' interest in ensuring fair representation a "new day" for the state. "Letting voters have a say in things would mean fair maps, that would mean things like restoring Roe v Wade, legalized cannabis," she said. "There are so many things we can work on together, if that was the goal."

Conversion therapy will continue to be permitted in Wisconsin

Republicans voted to send a rule allowing the controversial practice of conversion therapy back to committee, effectively allowing the practice to continue in Wisconsin.

AP: [Wisconsin moves to toughen reckless driving penalties](#) The Senate passed a bill, on a bipartisan 23-8 vote, increasing penalties for carjacking. The measure now heads to the Assembly.

The Senate also voted 30-1 to pass a bill that would allow police to impound a repeat reckless driver's vehicle. The Assembly followed suit later Wednesday afternoon, approving the legislation on an 85-12 vote.

WPR: [Wisconsin lawmakers pass bills aimed at reckless driving](#) Reckless drivers could face higher fines and prison time under a measure that passed the state Assembly Wednesday with broad bipartisan support. The full Legislature also passed another bill that would let police seize and impound the vehicles of repeat reckless drivers.

They were among several "tough on crime" bills advanced by GOP leaders Wednesday. Others included tougher penalties for carjackers and people who make or sell drugs that lead to a fatal overdose.

Republicans vote to continue allowing conversion therapy

In the Senate, Republicans used a procedural maneuver to again block rules banning conversion therapy, which seeks to change the sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression of those in the LGBTQ+ community. Republicans in the state Assembly took a similar vote earlier this month.

WI State Journal: [Criminal justice bills, 'conversion therapy' approved by Wisconsin Legislature](#) Besides taking up a couple of the same crime-related bills, the GOP-led Senate on Wednesday approved a measure that would continue to allow licensed counselors and others who attempt to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity through the discredited practice known as "conversion therapy" to operate in Wisconsin.

'Violent crime'

The Assembly and Senate approved, mostly along party lines, SB 75, a bill that clarifies the definition of a violent crime. Republicans' stated purpose is to give judges a clear picture of what constitutes a violent crime as they factor in defendants' past convictions to decide defendants' bail amounts — something they would be able to do if a proposed constitutional amendment passes on April 4.

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Channel 3000: [Wisconsin moves to toughen reckless driving penalties](#) The Senate also voted 30-1 to pass a bill that would allow police to impound a repeat reckless driver's vehicle. The Assembly followed suit later Wednesday afternoon, approving the legislation on an 85-12 vote.

"Once these cars are driven by reckless drivers, they are no longer vehicles, they are weapons in pursuit of a target and a victim," said Sen. LaTonya Johnson, D-Milwaukee. "People are paying dearly with their lives."

NBC15: [Wisconsin Legislature allows conversion therapy for patients](#) (video) The Wisconsin Legislature took the final step needed Wednesday to stop Gov. Tony Evers' administration from enacting a ban on the discredited practice known as conversion therapy.

AP: [Wisconsin Legislature allows conversion therapy for patients](#) The Wisconsin Legislature took the final step needed Wednesday to stop Gov. Tony Evers' administration from enacting a ban on the discredited practice known as conversion therapy. Republicans who control the state Senate voted over the objections of Democrats to effectively allow therapists and others to attempt to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity

PBS (AP): [Wisconsin Legislature allows conversion therapy for patients](#) Republicans in the Wisconsin Legislature have used a procedural move to freeze any future attempts through 2024 to enact a state ban on a controversial practice known as conversion therapy.

Fox6 (AP): [Conversion therapy, Wisconsin Legislature votes to allow](#)

US News (AP): [Wisconsin Legislature Allows Conversion Therapy for Patients](#)

WUWM 89.7 FM: [Wisconsin Republicans continue to protect controversial practice of conversion therapy](#) Republican state lawmakers have allowed the controversial practice of conversion therapy to continue in Wisconsin through a procedural move in the legislature. Democrats say Wednesday's action puts the LGBTQ community at risk of harm.

APG Media: [Wisconsin Republicans stall conversion therapy ban](#) That move will allow lawmakers to hold off on voting to overturn the ban. Because once lawmakers vote, the governor can simply override them, and the ban on conversion therapy could take effect. The delay keeps the ban on hold until the current legislature ends in 2024.

NBC15: [Joint resolution calls for special election for Wisconsin Secretary of State](#) Sens. Devin LeMahieu and Chris Kapenga introduced the joint resolution Monday, and it passed in State Senate Wednesday.

"The resolution the Senate passed today sends a clear message to Governor Evers: the people of Wisconsin should have an opportunity to vote to elect their Secretary of State," LeMahieu said. "Instead of appointing an interim Secretary and calling a special election, Governor Evers has decided to subvert Wisconsin's democracy to reward a political ally."

WI Examiner: [GOP calls for secretary of state special election, but state law doesn't require it](#) Pushing back on Gov. Tony Evers' appointment of former State Treasurer Sarah Godlewski to fill the Wisconsin Secretary of State's office for the next four years, the state Senate's GOP leaders will hold a vote Wednesday on a resolution calling on Evers to hold a special election instead.