

## Floor Session Media Coverage, June 14, 2023

*Notes: Shared Revenue AB 245, Education SB 330, Workforce Housing Package*

### **WHEC (AP) - [Milwaukee bankruptcy avoidance plan clears Wisconsin Legislature](#)**

The Wisconsin Legislature on Wednesday passed a bipartisan plan to prevent Milwaukee from going bankrupt that also sends more state aid to every community in the state, a long-sought-after funding increase agreed to by Republican lawmakers and Democratic Gov. Tony Evers. The measure is part of a larger deal struck by Evers and Republican legislative leaders after months of talks that also increases K-12 education funding, including private voucher schools, by more than \$1 billion. It was the highest profile deal reached between Evers, in the first year of his second term, and Republicans, who have found little common ground on most issues.

### **WMTV (AP) - [Milwaukee bankruptcy avoidance plan clears Wisconsin Legislature](#)**

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**WHBL – [Senator LeMahieu Praises Passage of Funding Bills](#)** Passage of a pair of historic bills drew praise from Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu of Oostburg. LeMahieu was in the majority among legislators who approved Senate Bill 330 with a 62-31 vote, and Assembly Bill 245 which passed 29-4 last night. AB 245 modifies shared revenue programs and helps the City and County of Milwaukee avoid going bankrupt from retirement obligations, eliminates the personal property tax and increases the amount of money Madison sends to counties and municipalities. SB 330 raises per-pupil revenue limits, now capped at \$10,000, to \$11,000 beginning with the 2023-24 school year, and also increases support for public, choice, and charter schools.

### **WKBT – [Wisconsin Legislature passes amended shared revenue bill, now heads to Evers' desk](#)**

Senator Brad Pfaff (D-WI) joined five other Senate Democrats and 15 Republicans Wednesday afternoon in passing the shared revenue bill that will add funding for local governments. The vote to send the bill to the Assembly came after lengthy discussion on Democrat-proposed amendments to the bill. One such amendment aimed to remove the part of the bill calling for a prohibition on local advisory referendums. Senator Pfaff was one of several Democrats in the Senate who criticized that prohibition and said keeping it in the bill would do harm to Wisconsin municipalities and voters. "Let's not take the opportunities from our local governments away to hear from their constituents," Pfaff said on the Senate floor.

### **MJS - [Legislature passes bill aimed at averting Milwaukee financial crisis, lifting aid to local governments](#)**

For years, it was far from clear that a bill to boost funding for cities, towns, villages and counties in Wisconsin would make it to the finish line — or even the starting line, for that matter.

But late Wednesday, state lawmakers passed the controversial legislation that keeps Milwaukee from entering a fiscal crisis in a bipartisan vote that pushed 12 Republicans to vote against the legislation and 19 Democrats to vote in favor — splitting their respective caucuses.

**WPR - [Wisconsin lawmakers on cusp of passing sweeping shared revenue deal](#)** A deal to overhaul local government funding cleared a major hurdle Wednesday afternoon, passing the Wisconsin Senate with both Republican and Democratic votes. The Senate's action set the stage for the Assembly to take up the bill later today, where its passage would send the plan to the governor's desk, likely cementing the biggest bipartisan compromise negotiated in Wisconsin state government in years.

### **WPR - [Wisconsin lawmakers send sweeping shared revenue overhaul to Gov. Tony Evers](#)**

The measure, which needed Democratic and Republican votes to pass the Legislature, could prevent mass layoffs of Milwaukee police and other city workers

### **WisPol - [Legislature approves shared revenue bill with Dem help in Senate](#)**

Legislation to pump an additional \$275 million into state aid for local governments passed both houses on bipartisan votes, clearing the way for the legislation to hit Dem Gov. Tony Evers' desk. The bipartisan support was needed in the Senate to clear that chamber. Heading into today's votes, backers of the proposal expected as many as seven GOP senators to oppose the deal. The promoted expectations there would either be additional changes to win over GOP holdovers or the need for Dem support to pass.

**The CAP Times** - [Wisconsin legislators approve shared revenue, school choice bills](#) Major proposals that reshape how the state funds local governments and private schools received approval from both the state Senate and Assembly Wednesday, sending them to Gov. Tony Evers' desk for his signature or veto. [...] Senate Minority Leader Melissa Agard, D-Madison, suggested the Republicans were "in complete and utter disarray." She said her Democratic peers have long supported the idea of increasing shared revenue for municipalities, but did not believe the policy provisions attached to this bill were appropriate.

**Wisconsin Examiner** - [Bills to increase funding for local government and choice schools pass Legislature](#) Wisconsin's Legislature passed a bill that will increase state aid to local government and allow Milwaukee to raise its local sales tax on Wednesday night, following months of negotiations that culminated in a deal struck between Republican leaders and Democratic Gov. Tony Evers. As a part of that deal, lawmakers passed another bill that would increase state funding for private choice schools and independent charter schools and per-pupil revenue limits for school districts.

**WI Radio Network** - [Shared revenue deal approved by Wisconsin Legislature](#)

Both chambers of the Wisconsin Legislature on Wednesday approved an historic compromise to overhaul state funding for local governments. The shared revenue bill will provide an additional \$275 million to counties and municipalities. It's now ready for Governor Tony Evers' signature. Evers negotiated the deal with Assembly Speaker Robin Vos and Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu.

**SEEHAFER NEWS** - [Shared Revenue Plan Clears Legislature, Senators LeMahieu, Jacque Respond](#) After months of negotiations and partisan wrangling, the \$1.2 billion Shared Revenue and School Funding Plan has cleared the legislature. The plan will give more state money to local municipalities and counties, and with the latest additions, schools will also get more. Both sides of the aisle have been voicing their opinions, with neither side 100% happy with the measure, but it appears as though both sides are getting just enough of what they want.

**Spectrum News1** - ['We have to get back to compromise': Wisconsin lawmakers pass shared revenue bill on bipartisan votes](#) A deal meant to help Milwaukee avoid bankruptcy while boosting the amount of money the state shares with local communities to cover the costs of critical services, such as police and fire, cleared its last legislative hurdles Wednesday evening. Despite months of back-and-forth negotiations on shared revenue, convincing lawmakers in the state Senate to support the compromise reached between Republican leaders and Democrat Gov. Tony Evers last week, lagged on well into the afternoon.

**Urban Milwaukee** - [Legislature Passes Local Revenue, Schools Bills](#)

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**Milwaukee Journal Sentinel** - [Voucher schools see a lifeline in shared revenue deal, but Gov. Tony Evers' allies are outraged](#) Educators teaching students in the state's private school voucher programs are praising a new deal between Republican legislative leaders and Democratic Gov. Tony Evers, telling lawmakers this week the plan to boost funding could keep some private schools from shuttering completely. At the same time, the governor's most reliable supporters — Wisconsin's teachers unions — are blasting the former state superintendent's agreement with GOP lawmakers to increase the payments for each voucher. Milwaukee teachers' union says Evers should veto deal.

**Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty** - [WILL praises bipartisan action in support of school choice and education empowerment](#) Legislative action helps fulfill critical mission for closing the funding gap between choice schools and public schools in Wisconsin. Kyle Koenen, Policy Director, stated "The Wisconsin Legislature took bold, decisive action to more equitably fund a quality education for every single child. Instead of an insufficient status quo, money will more closely follow the student, competition and innovation will drive results, and families will be empowered to make the best decision for their child. Once again, Wisconsin will be a leader in supporting true educational freedom for parents and students."