



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Room 412 East, State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

December 12, 2007

8:30 – 10:15 a.m.

[The following is a summary of the December 12, 2007 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 Risser called the meeting to order. He began by stating that with the completion of today's meeting, all of this interim's study committees will have reported.

Next, he welcomed Representative Tom Nelson, the newest member of the Council.

Co-Chair Risser stated that he intended to keep to the times established. Because of the limited time, it will not be possible to accommodate any public appearances. However, he reminded the members, bills recommended today will be introduced by the Council to the Legislature. These bills will follow the traditional process in the Legislature. Public hearings will be held on these bills in their assigned standing committees. He also noted that due to the lateness of this legislative session, if some bills do not advance in the process, they may be considered for reintroduction next year.

He then reminded the Council members that all Council recommendations require at least 12 votes. The period for voting will not be held open past the scheduled adjournment of today's meeting. Members must be present to vote.

Co-Chair Risser announced that upon action on today's reports, the Council Co-Chairs would like to begin discussion of the next study committee topics.

After making his remarks, Co-Chair Risser asked that the roll be taken. A quorum was noted present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PRESENT: Sen. Fred Risser and Rep. Steve Wieckert, Co-Chairs; Sens. Roger Breske, Tim Carpenter, Alberta Darling, Russell Decker, Scott Fitzgerald, Sheila Harsdorf, Alan Lasee, Mark Miller, and Judy Robson; and Reps. Joan Ballweg, Jeff Fitzgerald, Mark Gottlieb, Michael Huebsch, Dean Kaufert, Jim Kreuser, Tom Nelson, Mark Pocan, Kitty Rhoades, and Marlin Schneider.

COMMITTEE MEMBER
EXCUSED: Sen. Spencer Coggs.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: Terry C. Anderson, Director; Don Dyke, Chief of Legal Services; John Stolzenberg, Chief of Research Services; William Ford, Joyce Kiel, Rachel Letzing, Mary Matthias, Mark Patronsky, Don Salm, Anne Sappenfield, Ron Sklansky, Richard Sweet, and Russ Whitesel, Senior Staff Attorneys; Scott Grosz, Jessica Karls, and Larry Konopacki, Staff Attorneys; David L. Lovell, Senior Analysts; and Julie Learned, Kelly Mautz, Wendy Ulrich, and Tracey Young, Administrative Assistants.

APPEARANCES: Sen. Luther Olsen, Chair, Special Committee on Review of State School Aid Formula; Rep. Jeff Stone, Chair, Special Committee on Airport Authorities; Rep. Steve Kestell, Chair, Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families; and Sen. Neal Kedzie, Chair, Special Committee on Great Lakes Water Resources Compact.

Approval of the Minutes of the Committee's June 12, 2007 Meeting

Co-Chair Risser asked for a motion to approve the June 12, 2007 minutes of the Joint Legislative Council.

Rep. Wieckert moved, seconded by Rep. Ballweg, that the minutes of the June 12, 2007 meeting be approved. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Committee Report No. 12 of the Special Committee on Review of State School Aid Formula

Senator Luther Olsen, Chair, reported that the recommendations of the committee were incorporated into LRB-2279/1. Subsequent to the conclusion of the committee's work and the drafting of the proposed legislation, the Legislature enacted 2007 Wisconsin Act 20, the Biennial Budget Act, which affected a number of the provisions included in the committee's recommendations. Therefore, the committee's recommendations have been redrafted as LRB-2279/3 to reflect those changes.

Senator Olsen briefly went through a memo that was distributed to the Joint Legislative Council members prior to this meeting describing the revised bill and the major changes to the original

recommendations of the committee: (1) transportation; (2) declining enrollment; (3) low-spending districts; (4) revenue limit flexibility option; and (5) grant program for school consolidation feasibility studies.

He noted that the proposal makes other technical changes to the relation to the placement and cross-references in the statutes necessary to implement the proposed changes.

After a brief discussion, several Council members commended Senator Olsen for the work of the Special Committee.

Co-Chair Risser asked for a motion to approve LRB-2279/3.

Sen. Decker moved, seconded by Sen. Miller, that LRB-2279/3, relating to increasing the low-revenue ceiling for school district revenue limit purposes; authorizing a school district to exceed its revenue limit under certain conditions; modifying the school district revenue limit adjustment for declining enrollment; distributing transportation aid balances to school districts; and providing for a study, be introduced by the Joint Legislative Council. The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes, 18 (Sens. Risser, Breske, Carpenter, Darling, Decker, Harsdorf, Lasee, Miller, and Robson; and Reps. Wieckert, Gottlieb, Huebsch, Kaufert, Kreuser, Nelson, Pocan, Rhoades, and Schneider); Noes, 3 (Sen. Fitzgerald; and Reps. Ballweg and Fitzgerald); and Absent, 1 (Sen. Coggs).

Committee Report No. 15 of the Special Committee on Airport Authorities

Representative Jeff Stone, Chair, Special Committee on Airport Authorities, highlighted the major points in LRB-3012/1.

After a discussion of the draft's provisions relating to the conditions under which an airport district could be created, eminent domain, airport funding and the use of revenue bonds, and taxation, Co-Chair Risser asked for a motion on the draft.

Rep. Huebsch moved, seconded by Rep. Gottlieb, that LRB-3012/1, relating to authorizing the creation of local airport districts; authorizing the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands to make loans to a county that contains a 1st class city; and authorizing the Investment Board to make loans to a county that contains a 1st class city from the state investment fund, be introduced by the Joint Legislative Council. The motion failed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes, 9 (Sens. Darling and Fitzgerald; and Reps. Wieckert, Ballweg, Fitzgerald, Gottlieb, Huebsch, Kaufert, and Rhoades); Noes, 12 (Sens. Risser, Breske, Carpenter, Decker, Harsdorf, Lasee, Miller, and Robson; and Reps. Kreuser, Nelson, Pocan, and Schneider); and Absent, 1 (Sen. Coggs).

Committee Report No. 21 of the Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families

Representative Steve Kestell, Chair, Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families, thanked the Council for the opportunity to present several recommendations of the Special Committee. He gave a brief description on the five drafts being presented for introduction by the Joint Legislative Council:

1. **WLC: 0075/5**, relating to collaborative systems of care for families who are involved in multiple systems of care.
2. **LRB-3042/1**, relating to motor vehicle occupational licenses issued by the Department of Transportation.
3. **LRB-3063/1**, relating to a municipal court judgment regarding community service work.
4. **LRB-3491/1**, relating to parenting plans in actions affecting the family.
5. **WLC: 0171/1**, relating to home visitation grants.

Co-Chair Risser asked if there was a motion for introduction *en masse*.

Rep. Kaufert moved, seconded by Rep. Wieckert, that the following five drafts recommended by the Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families, be introduced en masse:

1. *WLC: 0075/5, relating to collaborative systems of care for families who are involved in multiple systems of care.*
2. *LRB-3042/1, relating to motor vehicle occupational licenses issued by the Department of Transportation.*
3. *LRB-3063/1, relating to a municipal court judgment regarding community service work.*
4. *LRB-3491/1, relating to parenting plans in actions affecting the family.*
5. *WLC: 0171/1, relating to home visitation grants.*

The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes, 21 (Sens. Risser, Breske, Carpenter, Darling, Decker, Fitzgerald, Harsdorf, Lasee, Miller, and Robson; and Reps. Wieckert, Ballweg, Fitzgerald, Gottlieb, Huebsch, Kaufert, Kreuser, Nelson, Pocan, Rhoades, and Schneider); Noes, 0; and Absent, 1 (Sen. Coggs).

Committee Report No. 20 of the Special Committee on Great Lakes Water Resources Compact

Senator Neal Kedzie, Chair, Special Committee on Great Lakes Water Resources Compact, thanked the Council for the opportunity to provide them with a final report on the work of the Special Committee.

He said that the Great Lakes Compact committee has been working diligently since September 2006 to determine if Wisconsin should or should not enter into the Compact. After the deadline of September 15, 2007 was given to the Special Committee last June to complete its work, he pursued the strategy he had presented in his progress report to the Joint Legislative Council and, in the limited time available, the committee acted swiftly on a number of items and were able to reach consensus on some of those items.

However, he explained, some legislative items added to the new draft of the enabling legislation were not reached by consensus, but rather a simple majority vote of the committee. It became evident the committee would not reach consensus on a final draft. He went on to explain that the most current draft, LRB-0141/4, in his opinion, could be used as a foundation for any further efforts to advance the enabling legislation and bill to ratify the Compact in Wisconsin and that a study committee is the best mechanism for developing a consensus bill.

Co-Risser thanked Senator Kedzie for the work of the Special Committee.

Committee Report No. 16 of the Special Committee on Charter Schools

On behalf of Representative Vukmir, Chair, Special Committee on Charter Schools, Joyce Kiel and Russ Whitesel, Legislative Council staff, noted that Chair Vukmir had made a status report to the Joint Legislative Council on June 12, 2007 explaining that the committee had met four times and that a preliminary bill draft had been prepared for consideration at a fifth meeting. Ms. Kiel further noted that the Council had adopted a motion at that meeting to give the committee until July 15, 2007 to complete its work and to dissolve the committee if its work was not completed by that date.

Ms. Kiel reported that the fifth meeting of the committee was held on June 25, 2007 to consider the preliminary bill draft but, because a quorum was not present, the committee could take no action. Because it was not possible to schedule a subsequent meeting before the July 15 deadline, the committee was dissolved under the motion adopted by the Council and the Special Committee made no recommendation.

Co-Chair Risser thanked the staff for the work on this topic, even though it did not result in the introduction of any legislation.

Discussion of 2008 Special Committee Assignments

Co-Chair Risser noted that a table was being distributed showing the study topics received to date. It is his and Co-Chair Wieckert's goal to work with the Council members to select and appoint the committee in January so the committees may begin meeting.

The intent is that these committees will complete their work in this biennium. All committees will be expected to either report or “check-in” at a Council meeting to be held next December.

The plan is to select from five to 10 different topics.

He said that he and Co-Chair Wieckert are proposing two tiers of study:

- ▶ Tier 1: the conventional study committees which consist of legislative and citizen members.
- ▶ Tier 2: staff researched study with the results presented to the Council Co-Chairs and ultimately the Council.

Co-Chair Risser said that they will have more to report to Council members in January.

Other Business

Co-Chair Risser announced that the Legislative Council was established in 1947 and in honor of the 60th Anniversary, he would like them to join Co-Chair Wieckert and him for brunch snacks and refreshments in the side parlor.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

TCA:wu;ksm