

**MINUTES OF THE MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE MEETING
November 10, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Legislative Task Force was held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 and called to order by Janice Falkenberg at 12:00 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Janice Falkenberg, Dr. Vicki Martin, Lauren Baker, Bohdan Zachary, Jennifer Mikulay, Erich Zeimantz, Equan Burrows, Charles Bruders, Ramie Zelenkova of Hubbard, Wilson, & Zelenkova, LLC.

B. COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW

The Legislative Task Force meeting was noticed to be in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 22, 2021 MEETING

Minutes were approved by consensus of all members.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Local

Nothing to report.

b. State

Wisconsin Assembly Bill 60/Senate Bill 55 relating to publication of proceedings of meetings held by certain governmental bodies. Passed the Senate, Assembly action pending.

Wisconsin Assembly Bill 266/Senate Bill 291 to eliminate certain restrictions on the respective educational roles of the UW System and Technical College System. The provisions were also included in the Governor's 2021-23 Biennial Budget request. Assembly committee recommended passage, Senate action pending.

Wisconsin Assembly Bill 195/Senate Bill 323 to designate University of Wisconsin and technical college sports and athletic teams based on sex of the participants. Passed Assembly 59-38. Was not recommended for passage by Senate Committee (2-3). The Governor indicated he will veto the legislation if it reaches his desk.

Wisconsin Assembly Bill 347/Senate Bill 375 to prohibit UW System institutions and WTCS colleges from requiring testing for, or vaccination against, COVID-19. Assembly committee recommended passage, Senate action pending.

Wisconsin Assembly Bill 414/Senate Bill 410 to prohibit sex and race stereotyping in training provided to employees of local and state government. Passed Assembly 60-38. Senate action pending. Governor indicated he will veto the legislation if it reaches his desk.

Wisconsin Assembly Bill 635/Senate Bill 605 relating to resident tuition at technical colleges and the UW System as applied to relocated service members and their children and spouses. Hearing pending.

Wisconsin Assembly Bill 675/Senate Bill 662 relating to natural immunity to COVID-19 in lieu of proof of vaccination or test. Hearing pending.

Neighborhood Investment Fund/Healthcare Infrastructure Capital Investment Fund Governor Evers announced a \$250 million program, funded by federal American Rescue Plan (ARPA) dollars, to help communities build long-term, sustainable economic success. The announcement includes \$200 million for a Neighborhood Investment Fund and \$50 million for a Healthcare Infrastructure Capital Investment grant program. Eligible entities can apply for competitive grants to deliver innovative public services including new and improved facilities, workforce and entrepreneur centers, affordable housing initiatives, transit and childcare solutions, and public space development. Emphasis should be put on increasing services for underserved individuals and populations.

Fixing Foundations Housing Initiative Legislative Republicans circulated a package of legislation aimed to improve affordable housing.

Reaching for Higher Education Package Legislative Democrats circulated a package of legislation aimed to make higher education more affordable.

Redistricting Governor Evers and Legislative Republicans released separate proposed maps for redistricting. The Legislature will pass maps the week of November 9th. Governor Evers is expected to veto the bill. It is expected the courts will ultimately put new lines in place for the 2022 Election.

Election Review Legislative Audit Bureau found no widespread fraud in the 2020 Election but in its report to the Legislature did highlight a series of issues the Wisconsin Elections Commission and Legislature could address including promulgating administrative rules on absentee ballots and the use of drop boxes. Senate Republicans announced their own review of the Election following the LAB Report. This will run separate from the ongoing review initiated by Assembly Republicans.

Foster Youth Bill - This bill requires the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System and technical college system district boards to grant tuition remissions to students who were in foster care or other placements out of their parent's home. This bill also requires the Department of Children and Families to distribute \$120,000 in grants to UW and Wisconsin Technical College System institutions for programs for former foster youth. The bill also makes an appropriation to the Higher Educational Aids Board to reimburse the Board of Regents and technical college district boards for remissions granted under the bill. If the appropriation is not sufficient to make full reimbursement, HEAB must prorate the reimbursements.

c. Federal

- Discussed CRS report, "OSHA Jurisdiction Over Public Schools and Other State and Local Government Entities: COVID-19 Issues." On September 9, 2021, President Joe Biden announced that OSHA is developing an emergency temporary standard (ETS) that would obligate employers

with more than 100 employees to require their employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or be tested weekly for COVID-19. This ETS would not apply to public schools, except in those states with OSHA-approved state plans.

- On November 3rd, the House filed a revised version of the Build Back Better Act following continued negotiations on legislative language. The revised version of the \$1.75 trillion budget reconciliation measure will bring needed workforce and higher education investments to Wisconsin, as we grapple with workforce shortages, an aging population, and an economy recovering from two historically disruptive events in just over 10 years.
- Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (BIF) by a vote of 228-206. This legislation invests in our country's core infrastructure such as roads and bridges, rail, transit, ports, airports, the electric grid, water systems, and broadband. House Democrats released an updated version of the Build Back Better Act. It includes \$4.9 billion for Community College and Industry Partnership Grants intended to help community colleges expand workforce development programs in high-demand/high-need sectors. The package also includes a \$550 increase to the Pell Grant maximum award and additional funding for HBCUs and MSIs, among other provisions. The House is expected to hold a vote on the revised measure in the coming days.

E. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

F. ADJOURNEMENT

Janice moved, Lauren seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.