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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2003-04

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Government Operations and Spending Limitations...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Assembly

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Government Operations and Spending Limitations

Assembly Bill 177

Relating to: deadlines for the transmittal of the Building Commission's long-range state building program recommendations and the delivery of the governor's biennial budget message and a report on the timeliness of the submittal of agency budget requests.

By Joint Legislative Council.

March 21, 2003 Referred to Committee on Government Operations and Spending
Limitations.

April 23, 2003 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (6) Representatives F. Lasee, Loeffelholz, Musser,
Weber, Zepnick and Wasserman.

Absent: (0) None.

Appearances For

- Rep. Donald Friske, 35th Assembly District
- Sen. Robert Jauch, 25th Senate District

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- None.

Registrations Against

- None.

February 25, 2004 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (6) Representatives F. Lasee, Loeffelholz, Musser,
Weber, Zepnick and Wasserman.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Representative Weber, seconded by Representative Loeffelholz that **Assembly Bill 177** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (3) Representatives F. Lasee, Loeffelholz and Weber.

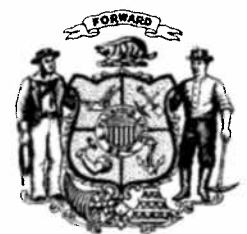
Noes: (3) Representatives Musser, Zepnick and Wasserman.

PASSAGE NOT RECOMMENDED, Ayes 3, Noes 3

Lance Burri
Committee Clerk



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

Assembly Committee on Government Operations and Spending Limitations

April 23, 2003

***Remarks of Senator Robert Jauch and Representative Don Friske, Co-Chairs,
Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Improving Wisconsin's Fiscal Management
on
2003 Assembly Bill 177***

Good morning. As co-chairs of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Improving Wisconsin's Fiscal Management, we urge the committee to recommend passage of one of our recommendations, Assembly Bill 177. AB 177 amends some of the specific steps in the schedule for developing the state's biennial budget.

More important, AB 177 deals with creating expectations--in particular, the expectation that both the Governor and the Legislature will prepare, and enact, the state's biennial budget in a timely basis.

Problem With Late Budgets

A number of speakers before our study committee, in addition to study committee members, indicated that a significant problem with the current budget process in Wisconsin is that the biennial budget bill is often enacted after the start of the first fiscal year to which it applies.

The record bears this out. The last time that a biennial budget bill was enacted and published by July 1 was the 1983-85 budget, 1983 Wisconsin Act 27. Before that bill, one has to go to the 1977-79 biennial budget to find a budget bill published by July 1. As those of you who have been in the Legislature for a number of sessions know, since the mid-1980s the earliest that the biennial budget is published is typically in August, but it has also been much later, such as the 1999-01 budget which was published on October 28, 1999.

So what? Tardy state budgets cause many problems:

- Late budgets complicate the implementation of state programs by state agencies.
- Late budgets impede or preclude budgeting by local governments and school districts that rely on state assistance.
- Late budgets undermine public confidence in the Legislature and the legislative process.

Study Committee Response

At the request of our study committee, Bob Lang, Director, Legislative Fiscal Bureau, prepared a timetable that, if followed, would lead to the enactment of the biennial budget on a timely basis. Part of this timetable included changing two statutory deadlines: the deadline for the Governor to deliver his or her budget message and the deadline for the Building Commission to submit its long-range state building program to the Joint Committee on Finance. The study committee subsequently endorsed the timetable, including the statutory changes.

The study committee also responded to reports that some executive agencies submit their biennial budget requests to the Governor after the statutorily specified deadline of September 15 of each even-numbered year. The study committee recommended a reporting mechanism to provide information to the Legislature on which agencies are complying with this submittal requirement and which are late.

The study committee submitted these statutory changes to the Joint Legislative Council which the Joint Legislative Council subsequently approved and introduced as Assembly Bill 177 and its companion bill, Senate Bill 64. In addition, the study committee submitted its complete timetable to

legislative leaders. The complete timetable is attached to this testimony with the steps affected by AB 177 in italics.

Description of AB 177

AB 177 makes the following changes to the schedule for developing a state biennial budget:

- Starting with the 2005-07 biennial budget, AB 177 amends the current deadline for the Governor to deliver the biennial budget message so that it is generally on or before the second Tuesday in January of the odd-numbered year. If the Governor is newly elected and not an incumbent, the Governor must, generally, deliver his or her first budget message on or before the fourth Tuesday in January in the year following the Governor's election. Current law generally requires the Governor to deliver the budget message on or before the last Tuesday in January of the odd-numbered year.
- Starting with the 2005-07 biennial budget, AB 177 amends the deadline for the Building Commission to transmit to the Joint Committee on Finance the portions of its recommended budget for the long-range state building program that require legislative approval by the first Tuesday in March of each odd-numbered year. Current law requires the submission, in general, by the first Tuesday in April of each odd-numbered year.
- Starting with the 2005-07 biennial budget, AB 177 requires the Department of Administration (DOA) to report to the Legislature which agencies met the statutory deadline of September 15 of each even-numbered year for submitting their biennial budget requests to the DOA and the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, which were late, and for those that were late, the reason for the delay in their submission.

A more detailed description of AB 177 is provided in the Joint Legislative Council's Report to the Legislature from the Special Committee on Improving Wisconsin's Fiscal Management, dated March 25, 2003 (RL 2003-03), which was previously provided to you.

We would be pleased to answer any questions you may have on Assembly Bill 177.

Attachment

RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BIENNIAL BUDGET

Endorsed by the Special Committee on Improving Wisconsin's Fiscal Management

[Activities affected by 2003 Assembly Bill 177 in italics.]

		Recommended Schedule¹	
Activity	Period of Time Allocated to the Activity	Post 2003-05 Biennial Budget With Incumbent Governor	Post 2003-05 Biennial Budget With Newly Elected, Nonincumbent Governor
Issuance of budget instructions by the Department of Administration		July 1 of each even-numbered year	July 1 of each even-numbered year
Submittal of agency budget requests		September 15 of each even-numbered year	September 15 of each even-numbered year
Compilation of agency budget requests and tax revenue estimates		November 20 of each even-numbered year	November 20 of each even-numbered year
<i>Budget message by the Governor and introduction by the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC)</i>		<i>Second Tuesday in January of each odd-numbered year (third Tuesday if January 1 is on a Tuesday)²</i> <i>[Week 2]</i>	<i>Fourth Tuesday in January of each odd-numbered year (fifth Tuesday if January 1 is on a Tuesday)²</i> <i>[Week 4]</i>
Distribution of the summary of budget provisions by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau		Four weeks following budget introduction [Week 6]	Four weeks following budget introduction [Week 8]
JFC budget briefings	8 days	Weeks 6 and 7	Weeks 8 and 9

Activity	Period of Time Allocated to the Activity	Recommended Schedule ¹	
		Post 2003-05 Biennial Budget With Incumbent Governor	Post 2003-05 Biennial Budget With Newly Elected, Nonincumbent Governor
JFC public hearings	2 1/2 weeks	Weeks 7 to 9	Weeks 9 to 11
<i>Capital budget submitted to JFC</i>		<i>First Tuesday in March of each odd-numbered year²</i>	<i>First Tuesday in March of each odd-numbered year²</i>
JFC executive sessions on the budget	5 weeks	Weeks 11 to 16 ³	Weeks 13 to 18 ³
Consideration by the first house	2 weeks	Weeks 17 and 18	Weeks 19 and 20
Consideration by the second house	2 weeks	Weeks 19 and 20	Weeks 21 and 22
Committee of conference	5 days	Week 21	Week 23
Adoption by the Legislature	2 days	Week 22	Week 24
Enrolled bill informally made available to the Governor		Week 23	Week 25
Enactment of the bill (Governor's approval in whole or in part)		Week 26	Week 28

Notes:

1. The week in the year is based on the weeks in 2003, with week 1 being the week containing the date of inauguration.
2. These dates require a change in current law, as set forth in 2003 Assembly Bill 177, recommended by the Special Committee.
3. Based on past practices of the Legislature, the period for this activity will need to accommodate religious holidays, i.e., Easter and Passover.