

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 52

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has one of the most progressive taxation systems of the fifty states; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to assure that Wisconsin citizens continue to have full confidence in the fairness of their tax system; and

WHEREAS, it has been at least twenty years since the last comprehensive examination of our tax system; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Revenue and the University of Wisconsin have embarked on a Tax Burden Study to evaluate the impact of our tax system on individual taxpayers and businesses; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the results of the Tax Burden Study be accessible to the press and interested members of the public; and

WHEREAS, state citizen commissions have historically made important contributions to the formulation of public policy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN J. SCHREIBER, Acting Governor of the State of Wisconsin, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 14.019 of the Wisconsin Statutes, do hereby:

1. Establish the Blue Ribbon Tax Reform Study Commission;

2. Charge the Commission with responsibility for a complete examination of the personal income tax, sales tax, corporate income tax, inheritance tax and property tax based on the information developed by the Tax Burden Study;

3. Charge the Commission with the responsibility of making recommendations for changes in the tax system which are guided by four basic principles: fairness, the ability to pay, economic development, and simplicity;

4. Ask that the Commission submit its final report and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature no later than December 31, 1978;

5. Instruct state officials to furnish the Commission any information it may require concerning the impact of Misconsin's tax system on individuals and businesses;



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6. Instruct the Secretary of the Department of Administration to provide the Commission with such sums of money that are necessary and proper for the Commission's legitimate travel and operating expenses, as provided by the Joint Finance Committee under Section 20.505(5)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twenty-sixth day of January in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-/eight/ IBER Acting Governor

By the Acting Governor:

DOUGLAS LAFOLLETTE Secretary of State