

CHAPTER 14

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES AND INTERSTATE BODIES

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SUBCHAPTER I

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

14.01 Office of the governor; creation. There is created an office of the governor under the direction and supervision of the governor.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1649.

14.015 Same; attached boards and commissions.

(1) DISABILITY BOARD. There is created a disability board which is attached to the office of the governor under s. 15.03. Where not in conflict with s. 17.025, s. 15.07 applies to the disability board. The disability board shall consist of the governor, the chief justice of the supreme court, the speaker of the assembly, the president of the senate, the minority leader of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate, and the dean of the University of Wisconsin Medical School. In case of the absence or disability of any of the members to serve for a particular meeting of the board, the lieutenant governor, a justice of the supreme court designated by the chief justice, the deputy speaker of the assembly, the majority leader of the senate, the assistant minority leader of the assembly, the assistant minority leader of the senate, or an associate dean of the University of Wisconsin Medical School designated by the dean shall serve, respectively, in place of the officers.

History: 1977 c. 9; 1977 c. 29 s. 1649; 1977 c. 203; 1979 c. 34, 110, 221, 361; 1981 c. 256; 1983 a. 27; 1985 a. 29; 1991 a. 269; 1995 a. 27 s. 209; 1995 a. 216; s. 13.93 (1) (b); 1997 a. 27; 1999 a. 186.

14.017 Same; councils. **(2) STATE COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE.** There is created in the office of the governor a state council on alcohol and other drug abuse consisting of the governor, the attorney general, the state superintendent of public instruction, the secretary of health and family services, the

commissioner of insurance, the secretary of corrections, the secretary of transportation and the chairperson of the pharmacy examining board, or their designees; a representative of the controlled substances board; a representative of any governor's committee or commission created under subch. I of ch. 14 to study law enforcement issues; 6 members, one of whom is a consumer representing the public at large, with demonstrated professional, research or personal interest in alcohol and other drug abuse problems, appointed for 4-year terms; a representative of an organization or agency which is a direct provider of services to alcoholics and other drug abusers; a member of the Wisconsin County Human Service Association, Inc., who is nominated by that association; and 2 members of each house of the legislature, representing the majority party and the minority party in each house, chosen as are the members of standing committees in their respective houses. Section 15.09 applies to the council.

(3) STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. (a) There is created in the office of the governor a standards development council consisting of all of the following:

1. The lieutenant governor, who shall serve as chairperson of the council.
2. A representative of the department of public instruction appointed by the state superintendent of public instruction.
3. The chairpersons of the committees in the assembly and senate whose subject matter is elementary and secondary education or members of those committees designated by the chairpersons.
4. The ranking minority member of each of the committees under subd. 3. or members of those committees designated by the ranking minority members.
5. One member appointed by the governor to serve at the pleasure of the governor.

(b) Section 15.09 applies to the standards development council.

History: 1971 c. 219 s. 4; 1973 c. 90; 1975 c. 39, 370; 1977 c. 29 s. 1649; 1977 c. 325, 418; 1979 c. 34 s. 16; 1979 c. 221; 1983 a. 27; 1987 a. 339, 399; 1987 a. 403 s. 256; 1991 a. 211; 1993 a. 210; 1995 a. 27 ss. 48, 9116 (5); 1997 a. 27, 252.

14.019 Governor's nonstatutory committees. (1) CREATION; TENURE; ABOLITION. Under the general powers of the office of the governor the governor may, by executive order, create nonstatutory committees in such number and with such membership as desired, to conduct such studies and to advise the governor in such matters as directed.

(a) Persons appointed to a nonstatutory committee may be removed or replaced, or the committee may be abolished, by the governor at pleasure.

(b) Any nonstatutory committee shall expire on the 4th Monday of January of the year in which a new gubernatorial term of office begins unless the new governor, by executive order, provides for its continued existence and in that case persons then serving on such committee remain members until they resign or until they are removed or replaced by action of the new governor.

(2) EFFECT OF APPROPRIATION. Subsection (1) continues to apply to any nonstatutory committee created by the governor even if a part of its expenses is later defrayed from state funds, whether under the general appropriation of s. 20.505 (4) (ba) or under an appropriation enacted specifically for the purposes of such committee.

(3) COORDINATION. The governor shall designate an employee of the office of the governor or of the department of administration to serve as coordinator for the activities of the nonstatutory committees created by the governor. The coordinator shall keep a record of all appointments to, or resignations or removals from, such committees. The coordinator shall also provide for the retention and preservation of the records and reports of such committees and shall, when appropriate, cause the duplication of such reports for public distribution.

(4) PROGRAM FEES. The governor may authorize any committee created under this section to charge a fee for materials and services provided by it in the course of carrying out its responsibilities. The fee may not exceed the actual cost of the materials or services provided. All fees shall be credited to the appropriation account under s. 20.505 (4) (h).

(5) FINAL REPORT; DEPOSIT. Any nonstatutory committee created by the governor and in existence at the time of the general election for a new gubernatorial term shall prepare a final written report on its activities to be submitted to the governor and, if the incumbent governor is not reelected, to the governor-elect prior to the first Monday of January of the year in which the new gubernatorial term begins. The number of copies prepared of such final reports shall be determined by the coordinator under sub. (3). The governor shall deposit sufficient copies of every final report required under this subsection with the reference and loan library under s. 43.05 (11) for distribution under s. 35.83 (3).

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1649; 1977 c. 273; 1979 c. 34; 1981 c. 20 s. 2202 (1) (b); 1991 a. 285, 316; 1993 a. 335; 2001 a. 16.

14.02 Governor may appoint employees. Except as provided in s. 14.26 (5g), the governor may appoint and fix the compensation of such employees as he or she deems necessary for the execution of the functions of the office of the governor and for the domestic service of the executive residence. The governor may remove any of the appointees appointed under this section at pleasure.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1649; 1977 c. 273; 1979 c. 221; 1995 a. 216.

14.03 Governor to coordinate state services. The governor is directed to coordinate and insure the provision of services required by more than one state agency, including without limitation because of enumeration, the use of state communication facilities, business equipment and related personnel so as to permit

more efficient and economical operation of state agencies. The cost of such services shall be charged according to s. 20.904.

14.035 Governor may enter into Indian gaming compacts. The governor may, on behalf of this state, enter into any compact that has been negotiated under 25 USC 2710 (d).

History: 1989 a. 196.

Cross Reference: See also ch. Game 3, Wis. adm. code.

Committing the state to policy choices negotiated in compacts constitutes a legislative function. Because the purpose of this section is ascertainable, and in most situations there are safeguards available to alter the policy choices made by the governor, the delegation of power to the governor is not an unconstitutional violation of the separation of powers doctrine. However, the legislature did not delegate to the governor the authority to agree to a compact of indefinite duration, which circumvents the procedural safeguards that sustain the legislature's ability to delegate that power in the first place: the power to curtail or reclaim the delegated power by future legislative action. Panzer v. Doyle, 2004 WI 52, 271 Wis. 2d 295, 680 N.W.2d 666, 03–0910.

The governor acted contrary to the public policy embodied in state law and therefore acted without authority by agreeing to a compact allowing the conduct of games prohibited by Art. IV, s. 24, and criminal statutes. Panzer v. Doyle, 2004 WI 52, 271 Wis. 2d 295, 680 N.W.2d 666, 03–0910.

The governor exceeded his authority by agreeing in a compact to waive the state's sovereign immunity, an act which he had no inherent or delegated power to undertake. Panzer v. Doyle, 2004 WI 52, 271 Wis. 2d 295, 680 N.W.2d 666, 03–0910.

14.04 Reports to legislature. At the commencement of each regular session of the legislature, the governor shall communicate to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature, for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2), the reports of all state officers, commissions, boards, and departments required by law to report to the governor, including the reports of state officers whose terms of office have expired covering the transactions in their respective offices from June 30 in the last year of their terms, and, at the time of communicating said reports, shall render to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature, for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2), a statement of all expenditures made by the governor out of any contingent fund appropriated for the contingent expenses of the office of the governor. Biennially, the governor shall submit to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature, for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2), a report on the condition of each of the public institutions of this state which are supported in whole or in part by appropriations by the state with such recommendations as deemed proper.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1649; 1977 c. 273; 1987 a. 186.

14.05 Inspection and investigation of institutions. The governor may visit and inspect at any time any public institution of this state which is supported in whole or in part by appropriations by the state; and, in the case of state institutions, the governor may also cause an investigation to be made of any thereof, or of any matter connected with or of any employee in any such institution, and may appoint a suitable person therefor, and shall require a written report thereof. Such investigator shall be paid not to exceed \$6.50 a day for each day actually and necessarily required in performing the duties imposed, and shall be reimbursed all actual expenses thereby incurred. The cost of any such investigation shall be charged to the appropriation for the state institution under investigation.

History: 1991 a. 316.

14.06 Gifts, grants and bequests. The governor may accept gifts, grants and bequests, and may expend the proceeds to carry out the purposes for which received.

History: 1999 a. 9.

14.065 Expenditure of federal oil overcharge funds. (1) In this section, "oil overcharge funds" means any oil overcharge restitution funds which the federal government disburses to this state under any act of congress, court order or administrative action.

(2) Notwithstanding s. 16.54, the governor may not authorize the expenditure of any oil overcharge funds unless a proposal for that expenditure under sub. (3) has been approved by the joint committee on finance.

(3) The governor shall submit to the joint committee on finance and to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature, for

distribution under s. 13.172 (3) to the appropriate legislative standing committees generally responsible for legislation related to state energy issues, a proposal for the expenditure of oil overcharge funds. Within 30 days after receipt of the proposal, each such standing committee may submit in writing recommendations on the proposal to the joint committee on finance.

(4) Thirty days after receipt of the proposal under sub. (3) or upon receipt of the recommendations of the standing committees under sub. (3), whichever is sooner, the joint committee on finance shall schedule a meeting under s. 13.10 to approve, modify or disapprove the proposal.

(5) The governor may not make any amendment to any proposal for the expenditure of oil overcharge funds which has been approved by the joint committee on finance unless that amendment is approved or modified and approved by the joint committee on finance under s. 13.10.

History: 1987 a. 27, 186.

14.07 Records and documents; executive privy seal.

(1) The private secretary to the governor, for purposes of authentication, is custodian of the public records and documents in the office of the governor.

(2) The executive privy seal, a written description of which is deposited in the office of the secretary of state, is the seal of the private secretary to the governor, with which all the private secretary's official certificates shall be authenticated.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1649; 1991 a. 316.

14.08 Deposit of acts; notice. The governor shall deposit each legislative act enacted by the governor's approval in the office of the secretary of state under s. 35.095 (2) (b), and shall so inform the house of origin.

History: 1981 c. 372.

14.09 Executive orders. The governor shall cause all executive orders issued to be deposited in the office of the secretary of state.

History: 1975 c. 252, 421.

Executive orders of the Wisconsin governor. 1980 WLR 333.

14.11 Legal actions and proceedings. (1) STATE PROPERTY; LEGAL PROTECTION OF. The governor, whenever in the governor's opinion the rights, interests or property of the state have been or are liable to be injuriously affected, may require the attorney general to institute and prosecute any proper action or proceeding for the redress or prevention thereof; and whenever the governor receives notice of any action or proceeding between other parties by which the rights, interests or property of the state are liable to be injuriously affected, the governor shall inform the attorney general thereof and require the attorney general to take such steps as may be necessary to protect such rights, interests, or property.

(2) EMPLOYMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL. (a) The governor, if in the governor's opinion the public interest requires such action, may employ special counsel in the following cases:

1. To assist the attorney general in any action or proceeding;
2. To act instead of the attorney general in any action or proceeding, if the attorney general is in any way interested adversely to the state;
3. To defend any action instituted by the attorney general against any officer of the state;
4. To institute and prosecute an action or proceeding which the attorney general, by reason of the attorney general's opinion as to the validity of any law, or for any other reason, deems it the duty of the attorney general to defend rather than prosecute.

(b) When special counsel is employed, a contract in writing shall be entered into between the state and such counsel, in which shall be fixed the compensation to be paid such counsel by the state. The contract shall be executed in behalf of the state by the governor, and shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state. Such compensation shall be charged to the special counsel appropriation in s. 20.455 (1) (b).

(c) Upon employment of special counsel, the governor shall certify the maximum amount provided in the employment contract to the secretary of administration, and direct the department to pay special counsel bills related to that case within the certified figure.

History: 1971 c. 164; 1981 c. 20 s. 2202 (17) (a); 1985 a. 332 s. 253; 1991 a. 316.

14.12 Execution of releases and satisfactions. Unless otherwise provided by law, the governor and attorney general may release or satisfy any lien or other obligation in favor of the state, upon payment by the obligor of the full amount due thereon or of the amount provided in any compromise settlement duly entered into and approved as provided by law. When such release or satisfaction is required to be under seal, the secretary of state shall affix the great seal of the state and authenticate the signatures of said officers.

14.13 Land claims against United States; receipt of payment. The governor may receive from the U.S. treasury department, from time to time, as the governor sees fit to draw for the same, the 5% of the net proceeds of sales of the public lands to which this state is or shall be entitled, pursuant to the act of congress approved August 6, 1846, and execute the proper vouchers therefor. When received the governor shall pay the same into the state treasury to the credit of the school fund.

History: 1991 a. 316.

14.14 Patents to railroad lands. Whenever the governor shall have executed and delivered to any railway or other corporation a patent from this state of any land inuring to such corporation under or through any grant from the United States and the laws of this state, and subsequent to the delivery of any such patent the United States shall patent or certify said land or any part thereof to this state as inuring under such grant, the governor may in the governor's discretion execute and deliver to such corporation a new patent of said land by way of further assurance of title to the same, reciting the fact of the execution and delivery of said prior patent and the subsequent issue by the United States of a patent or certified list of the said land, and that the said new patent is made by virtue of this section and for the purposes aforesaid; and the additional patent shall be entitled to the same force and effect as a conveyance and as evidence as other state patents have by law.

History: 1991 a. 316.

14.15 Rewards. Whenever any person convicted of or charged with any felony escapes, or whenever any heinous crime has been committed, the governor may offer a reward of not to exceed \$500 for the apprehension and delivery of such person or the conviction of the perpetrator of such crime. If such reward is claimed, whether by one or more persons, the governor shall finally determine to whom the same shall be paid, and, if to more than one person what portion to each, and shall certify the determination to the secretary of state. No such offer of a reward by the governor shall impose any actionable liability on the state.

History: 1991 a. 316.

14.16 Holiday proclamations. (1) ARBOR AND BIRD DAY. The governor, by proclamation, may set apart one day each year to be designated as Arbor and Bird Day, and may request its observance by all schools, colleges and other institutions by the planting of trees, the adornment of school and public grounds and by suitable exercises having for their object the advancement of the study of arboriculture, the promotion of a spirit of protection to birds and trees and the cultivation of an appreciative sentiment concerning them.

(2) CITIZENSHIP DAY. The governor may also set aside, by proclamation, the 3rd Sunday in May in each year to be designated as Citizenship Day, and shall request its observance by all circuit court judges, county boards, municipalities, colleges and other institutions, by suitable exercises for all those persons who have recently become enfranchised either by naturalization or by reaching their majority on the necessity of exercising responsible,

vigilant and intelligent citizenship to safeguard and maintain our inalienable American liberties, freedom of person, stability, strength, endurance of our democratic institutions, ideals and leadership.

(3) LABOR DAY. The governor may also set apart, by proclamation, one day in each year to be observed as Labor Day.

(4) ARMISTICE DAY. The governor shall annually issue a proclamation calling attention to the fact that November 11 is the anniversary of Armistice Day, and requesting the people throughout the state to observe by appropriate exercises the hour at which the armistice following World War I was concluded.

(5) MOTHER'S DAY. The governor may annually proclaim the 2nd Sunday in May as Mother's Day and urge the people and organizations to display the American flag as a public expression of love and reverence for the mothers of our state and as a symbol of a united effort to inspire better homes and closer union between the state, its homes and its sons and daughters.

(6) GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY. The governor may annually proclaim the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day and call upon the people and organizations to display the American flag and hold appropriate meetings in their homes, churches and other suitable places as a public expression of love, sorrow and reverence for the gold star mothers of our state.

(7) AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH. To emphasize the spirit of America and Americanism and to remind the citizens of this state of the history of our nation and its free institutions, the month of February in each year is designated "American History Month" and the governor is directed to annually issue a suitable proclamation for the observance thereof.

(8) WONDERFUL WISCONSIN WEEK. To emphasize this state's great assets which make it such a desirable place to live and work, to give all citizens a greater knowledge and appreciation of this state and to salute every important activity of the state, from agriculture to industry to tourism, from business to labor to recreation and from education to good government to the state's varied products, the 3rd week in September of each year is designated "Wonderful Wisconsin Week". The governor shall issue annually a suitable proclamation for the observance of "Wonderful Wisconsin Week".

(9) HIRE A VETERAN WEEK. To recognize the contribution veterans have made to our society and the special needs of unemployed veterans and to encourage the hiring of unemployed veterans, the 2nd week of November is designated "Hire a Veteran Week". The governor shall issue annually a suitable proclamation for the observance of "Hire a Veteran Week" encouraging all employers to hire veterans.

(10) PRISONERS OF WAR REMEMBRANCE DAY. To recognize the sacrifices of those persons who suffered captivity in foreign countries while in active service with the U.S. armed forces, April 9 of each year is designated "Prisoners of War Remembrance Day." The governor shall issue annually a suitable proclamation for the observance of "Prisoners of War Remembrance Day" and request that some portion of the day be used for solemn contemplation on the plight of members of the U.S. armed forces who have been held prisoners of war.

(10m) POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY. To recognize the sacrifices of those persons who suffered or suffer captivity in foreign countries while in active service with the U.S. armed forces or who are or were missing in action, the 3rd Friday of September of each year is designated "POW-MIA Recognition Day." The governor shall issue annually a suitable proclamation for the observance of "POW-MIA Recognition Day" and request that some portion of the day be used for solemn contemplation on the plight of members of the U.S. armed forces who are or have been held prisoners of war and members of the U.S. armed forces who are or have been missing in action.

(11) PURPLE HEART DAY. The governor shall annually proclaim August 7 as Purple Heart Day and urge the people and orga-

nizations of the state to display the American flag on that day as a public expression of the recognition of those individuals who have been wounded or killed in action preserving the freedoms that all United States citizens cherish.

(12) ALDO LEOPOLD WEEKEND. The governor shall annually proclaim the first full weekend in March as Aldo Leopold Weekend to honor the author of A Sand County Almanac, an internationally respected scientist and conservationist who is widely considered the father of wildlife ecology.

(12m) AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH. The governor shall annually proclaim February as African American History and Cultural Heritage Month as a way to recognize and celebrate the contributions and achievements of African Americans.

NOTE: Sub. (12m) was created as sub. (12) by 2003 Wis. Act 147 and renumbered by the revisor under s. 13.93 (1) (b).

History: 1971 c. 307; 1973 c. 140; 1979 c. 23; 1993 a. 255; 2001 a. 20, 99, 100, 105; 2003 a. 137, 147; s. 13.93 (1) (b).

14.165 Governor's energy awards. (1) AWARDS. The governor may issue awards to recognize outstanding accomplishments or efforts related to energy conservation or renewable energy systems. Awards may be made for all of the following:

- (a) Public and private sector activities.
- (b) New building design, building renovation or upgrading and maintaining existing equipment.
- (c) Demand-side management programs.
- (d) Contributions by engineers, architects and other professionals.
- (e) Industrial applications.

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS. The department of administration, department of commerce and public service commission shall make recommendations to the governor for awards under sub. (1).

History: 1993 a. 414; 1995 a. 27 s. 9116 (5).

NOTE: 1993 Wis. Act 414, which created this section, contains extensive explanatory notes.

14.17 Conferences of governors. The governor may attend and represent the state at all conferences of governors, and make such arrangements as deemed necessary for this state to bear its share of the expenses of such conferences. All expenses incurred under this section shall be charged to the proper appropriation for the office of the governor.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1649; 1977 c. 273.

14.18 Assistance from department of workforce development. The governor may enter into a cooperative arrangement with the department of workforce development under which the department assists the governor in providing temporary assistance for needy families under 42 USC 601 et. seq.

History: 1999 a. 9; 2001 a. 16 ss. 4045, 4060.

14.19 Advocacy activities. (1) The governor may authorize advocacy activities to be conducted in the office of the governor concerning problems of members of ethnic minority groups, women and the family.

(3) Advocacy activities may include investigation of complaints, service as an adviser or a mediator in resolving disputes or promotion of public education and planning to resolve problems.

(4) The governor shall appoint an employee of the office of the governor as the family literacy advocate to establish a statewide program to improve family literacy.

History: 1979 c. 221; 1981 c. 20; 1995 a. 27.

14.20 Literacy improvement aids. (1) In this section:

- (a) "Local governmental unit" has the meaning given in s. 16.97 (7).
- (b) "Nonprofit organization" has the meaning given in s. 108.02 (19).

(2) From the appropriation under s. 20.525 (1) (f), the governor may provide a grant to any local governmental unit or non-profit organization for support of a literacy improvement program.

History: 1997 a. 27; 1999 a. 9; 2001 a. 16; 2003 a. 33.

14.23 Standards development council. (1) By October 14, 1997, the governor shall submit to the standards development council pupil academic standards in mathematics, science, reading and writing, geography and history. The council shall review the standards and may modify them. Within 30 days after October 14, 1997, the council shall transmit its recommended standards to the governor.

(2) The governor shall approve or disapprove the recommended standards within 30 days after receiving them under sub. (1). If the governor approves the standards, he or she may issue the approved standards as an executive order.

(3) The council shall periodically review the standards issued under sub. (2) and may recommend changes to the governor. If the governor approves the changes he or she may issue them as an executive order.

History: 1997 a. 27, 252.

14.24 State council on alcohol and other drug abuse. The state council on alcohol and other drug abuse shall:

(1) Provide leadership and coordination regarding alcohol and other drug abuse issues confronting the state.

(2) Meet at least once every 3 months.

(3) By June 30, 1994, and by June 30 every 4 years thereafter, develop a comprehensive state plan for alcohol and other drug abuse programs. The state plan shall include all of the following:

(a) Goals, for the time period covered by the plan, for the state alcohol and other drug abuse services system.

(b) To achieve the goals in par. (a), a delineation of objectives, which the council shall review annually and, if necessary, revise.

(c) An analysis of how currently existing alcohol and other drug abuse programs will further the goals and objectives of the state plan and which programs should be created, revised or eliminated to achieve the goals and objectives of the state plan.

(4) Each biennium, after introduction into the legislature but prior to passage of the biennial state budget bill, review and make recommendations to the governor, the legislature and state agencies, as defined in s. 20.001 (1), regarding the plans, budgets and operations of all state alcohol and other drug abuse programs.

(5) Provide the legislature with a considered opinion under s. 13.098.

(6) Coordinate and review efforts and expenditures by state agencies to prevent and control alcohol and other drug abuse and make recommendations to the agencies that are consistent with policy priorities established in the state plan developed under sub. (3).

(7) Clarify responsibility among state agencies for various alcohol and other drug abuse prevention and control programs and direct cooperation between state agencies.

(8) Each biennium, select alcohol and other drug abuse programs to be evaluated for their effectiveness, direct agencies to complete the evaluations, review and comment on the proposed evaluations and analyze the results for incorporation into new or improved alcohol and other drug abuse programming.

(9) Publicize the problems associated with abuse of alcohol and other drugs and the efforts to prevent and control the abuse.

History: 1971 c. 219; 1975 c. 370; 1979 c. 221; 1983 a. 27; 1985 a. 328; 1993 a. 210.

14.26 Wisconsin sesquicentennial commission.

(1) The Wisconsin sesquicentennial commission shall make appropriate plans and preparations for the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Wisconsin statehood.

(2) The commission shall submit an annual report to the governor and to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2) regarding its activities on each March 1 until March 1, 1998.

(3) Upon request of the commission, all state agencies, as defined in s. 20.001 (1), shall cooperate with the commission in the performance of its functions.

(4) The commission shall ensure full participation by the University of Wisconsin System in the sesquicentennial and shall make appropriate arrangements to coordinate commemorative activities with activities conducted to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the University of Wisconsin System.

(5) In making appointments to the commission, the governor shall designate a chairperson. The commission shall elect a vice chairperson and secretary from its membership.

(5g) The commission may:

(a) Subject to authorization under s. 16.505, employ staff outside of the classified service and consultants and fix their compensation.

(b) Enter into contracts, leases or other agreements.

(d) Assume such other functions authorized by law as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

(5r) The commission may appoint such committees as may be required to carry out its functions.

(6) The commission shall complete its activities and submit a final report regarding its activities to the governor, and to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2) no later than June 1, 1999. The commission shall cease to exist on July 1, 1999.

History: 1991 a. 269; 1995 a. 27; 1995 a. 216 s. 40g; 1995 a. 445; 1997 a. 27; 1999 a. 9; 2001 a. 16.

SUBCHAPTER II

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

14.31 Office of lieutenant governor; creation. There is created an office of the lieutenant governor under the direction and supervision of the lieutenant governor.

14.32 Service as acting governor. (2) When acting as governor because of a vacancy in the office of governor created by the happening of any contingency specified in s. 17.03, the lieutenant governor shall receive the annual salary and all other rights, privileges and emoluments of the office of governor. The annual salary paid in such instance shall be in lieu of all other compensation provided for the lieutenant governor.

(3) Compensation for service by the lieutenant governor under this section shall be paid from the appropriation in s. 20.525 (1) (a).

History: 1971 c. 42; 1971 c. 125 s. 522 (1); 1975 c. 39 s. 734; 1977 c. 29 s. 1656 (15); 1989 a. 31.

14.33 Employees. The lieutenant governor may employ within the limits of the appropriations under s. 20.540 such staff as he or she deems necessary outside the classified service for such period and upon such terms as the lieutenant governor determines.

History: 1971 c. 125; 1977 c. 196 s. 131; 1977 c. 273; 1979 c. 34; 1987 a. 27.

14.34 Additional executive duties. As the second ranking executive officer of the state, the lieutenant governor shall have such additional duties as are assigned by the governor in writing. These may include:

(1) The designation by the governor of the lieutenant governor as the governor's representative on any statutory commission, board or committee on which the governor is entitled to membership. Under such designation, the lieutenant governor shall perform in the place of the governor and shall have all authority and responsibility granted by law to the governor with regard to such membership.

(2) The designation by the governor of the lieutenant governor as the governor's representative on any nonstatutory committee created by the governor under s. 14.019.

(3) The designation by the governor of the lieutenant governor to coordinate state services and programs under s. 14.03 and such other statutory responsibility of the governor for this purpose. The governor shall specify in writing to state agencies the nature, areas and extent of such designated authority.

(4) The designation by the governor of the lieutenant governor as the governor's representative on any intergovernmental body created for the purpose of maintaining relationships with the federal government, state government, regional agencies or local government.

History: 1973 c. 90; 1991 a. 316.

14.35 Authorized activities. The lieutenant governor may:

(1) Accept gifts, grants, bequests or devises, or federal moneys authorized by the governor under s. 16.54, to be used for the authorized functions of the office of lieutenant governor.

(2) Conduct conferences or prepare and sell publications or promotional materials related to the authorized functions of the office of lieutenant governor.

History: 1987 a. 27.

SUBCHAPTER III

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

14.36 Office of secretary of state; creation. There is created an office of the secretary of state under the direction and supervision of the secretary of state.

14.38 Secretary of state, duties. The secretary of state shall:

(1) **RECORD EXECUTIVE ACTS.** Keep a record of the official acts of the executive department and, when required, lay the same and all matters relative thereto before either house of the legislature.

(2) **AFFIX GREAT SEAL; REGISTER COMMISSIONS.** Affix the great seal to and countersign all commissions issued and other official acts done by the governor, the governor's approbation of the laws excepted; and make a register of such commissions in a book provided by the governor therefor, specifying the person to whom issued, the office conferred, and the date and term of the commission.

(3) **HAVE CUSTODY OF BOOKS, RECORDS, ETC.** Have the custody of all books, records, deeds, bonds, parchments, maps, papers and other articles and effects belonging to the state, deposited or kept in the secretary of state's office, and make such provision for the arrangement and preservation thereof as is necessary, and keep the same, together with all accounts and transactions of the office open at all times to the inspection and examination of the governor or any committee of either or both houses of the legislature.

(4) **BIENNIAL REPORT.** Report biennially in accordance with s. 15.04 (1) (d) all matters pertaining to the office and, when required, furnish the governor or either house of the legislature, in writing, any information relative to the performance of the duties of the office.

(5) **KEEP ENROLLED LAWS, ETC.** Safely keep all enrolled laws and resolutions, and not permit any of them to be taken out of the secretary of state's office or inspected except in the presence of the secretary of state, unless by order of the governor or by resolution of one or both houses of the legislature. For any violation of this subsection the secretary of state shall forfeit the sum of \$100.

(6) **COMPILE ORIGINAL LAWS AND RESOLUTIONS.** Cause the original laws enacted and joint resolutions adopted at each session of the legislature, together with the index containing the titles of the same, to be bound in suitable volumes in a substantial manner, and in the order in which they are enacted or adopted, with the title

thereof and the session at which they are enacted or adopted to be written or printed on the spine of the volumes.

(8) **RECORD FEES.** Keep a record of all fees received by the office and include a summary of such record in the biennial report under s. 15.04 (1) (d).

(9) **FURNISH CERTIFIED COPIES; FEES.** Make a copy of any law, resolution, deed, bond, record, document or paper deposited or kept in his or her office, upon request therefor, attach thereto his or her certificate, with the greater or lesser seal affixed, and collect therefor 50 cents per page and \$5 for such certificate; if a copy is not to be certified and if the reproduction is performed by the office of the secretary of state, then collect a fee to cover the actual and necessary cost of reproduction and actual and necessary cost of transcription required to produce the copy or \$2, whichever is greater; also to record any document authorized or required by law to be recorded in his or her office, and to charge therefor a fee of \$1 per page. The fee for certified copies and for certificates as to results of searches of the records and files of his or her office, when a printed form is used, shall be \$5, but when a specially prepared form is required the fee shall be \$10. Telegraphic reports as to results of record searches shall be \$5 plus the cost of the telegram. The secretary of state shall charge and collect for preparing any record or certificate under this subsection in an expeditious manner, an expedited service fee of \$25 in addition to the fee otherwise required under this subsection.

(9m) **SIGNATURES.** Receive and file the signature and an impression of the official seal or rubber stamp of all county clerks and registers of deeds, and upon request certify to the authenticity of that signature and official seal or rubber stamp and charge therefor the statutory fee.

(10) **NOTICES OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND ENACTMENTS.** (a) No later than the next working day following the deposit of an act in his or her office, provide written notice to the legislative reference bureau of the act number and date of enactment, and the designated date of publication of the act under s. 35.095.

(b) Publish in the official state paper, on the first Tuesday of August, September and October immediately preceding any general election, such proposed constitutional amendments as were approved for the first time by the legislature preceding the election.

(c) Publish in the official state newspaper within 10 days after the date of publication of an act a notice certifying the number of each act, the number of the bill from which it originated, the date of publication and the relating clause. Each certificate shall also contain a notice of where the full text of each act can be obtained. Costs under this paragraph shall be charged to the appropriation under s. 20.765 (1) (d) or (5).

(11) **OTHER DUTIES.** Perform such other duties as are imposed upon the secretary of state by the constitution or by law.

History: 1975 c. 93, 198, 224, 421; 1977 c. 29; 1977 c. 196 s. 131; 1979 c. 328; 1981 c. 124, 372; 1983 a. 27; 1983 a. 36 s. 96 (2); 1985 a. 29, 303, 338; 1989 a. 123, 303; 1991 a. 32, 39, 316; 1993 a. 112, 214, 452; 1995 a. 27, 225; 2003 a. 33.

14.39 Conditional acceptance of filing fees. Before actually filing any document by making an endorsement on that document, the secretary of state may accept and deposit the filing fee submitted with that document upon the condition that if subsequent examination of the document establishes that it does not meet the requirements for filing, the fee may be refunded and upon the condition that if a discrepancy in the amount of the fee is subsequently discovered the secretary of state may then demand further payment of a shortage or refund an overpayment subject to s. 20.905 (3).

History: 1977 c. 418.

14.40 Record of positions, appointments. (1) Annually not later than July 1, each legislative, administrative and judicial agency of the state government shall submit to the secretary of state a list of all positions within that agency outside the classified service and above the clerical level, excluding the faculties under

the jurisdiction of the board of regents of the University of Wisconsin System and the department of public instruction, which are filled by appointment, and the term if there is one, together with the name of the incumbent and the date of his or her appointment.

(2) The secretary of state shall keep a record of all positions reported under sub. (1), the names of the incumbents and the dates of their appointments.

(3) The appointment officer shall promptly notify the secretary of state of any vacancy occurring in any such position because of resignation, disability or death as well as any appointments made to fill such vacancies.

(4) Any officer or agency of the state authorized to select any officer of the state or member of a board, commission or committee outside the classified service, whether judicial, military or civil, shall report such selection to the secretary of state who shall record and file such selection for information of the public. The department of administration shall not approve any payroll or expense voucher for such position until the notice of appointment has been filed with the secretary of state.

History: 1971 c. 100 s. 23; 1979 c. 34; 1995 a. 27 s. 9145 (1); 1997 a. 27.

14.43 Custodian of deeds, securities, oaths and bonds. All deeds, conveyances, abstracts of title, options and leases of land; and, unless otherwise directed by law, all bonds, mortgages and other securities, for money, belonging to this state, and all official oaths and bonds shall be deposited and preserved in the office of the secretary of state and be open to public inspection.

14.45 Great and lesser seals. (1) The state shall have a great seal and a lesser seal both of which shall be kept in the office of the secretary of state.

(2) The great seal of the state consists of a metallic disc, 2 3/8 inches in diameter, containing, within an ornamental border, the following devices and legend: The coat of arms of the state, as in s. 1.07 described; above the arms, in a line parallel with the border, the words, "Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin;" in the exergue, in a curved line, 13 stars.

(3) A lesser seal, 1 3/4 inches in diameter, engraved with the device of the great seal, with the words, "Seal of the Secretary of State," in a curved line above, and the words, "State of Wisconsin," in a curved line below such device, is the seal of the secretary of state, and may be used to authenticate all papers and documents issued by the secretary of state, except the official acts of the governor, and such copies of the laws and records in the office of said secretary as may be required for use as evidence in any other state, territory or country.

History: 1991 a. 316.

14.46 Assistant secretary of state. The secretary of state may appoint, in writing, an assistant secretary of state who may perform and execute any of the duties of the secretary of state, except as a member of the board of commissioners of public lands. The assistant secretary shall take and subscribe the oath of office prescribed by [article IV, section 28, of the constitution](#) and shall give bond to the secretary of state in the sum and with the conditions as the secretary of state prescribes, conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties. The oath shall be filed and preserved in the office of the governor.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1649; 1977 c. 273; 1983 a. 192.

14.47 Cashier in secretary of state's office bonded. The cashier and assistant cashiers in the office of the secretary of state shall give bonds to the secretary of state in such sum and with such conditions as the secretary of state may prescribe, conditioned for the faithful discharge of their duties. Said bonds shall be furnished by a surety company authorized to do business in this state and the cost thereof shall not exceed one-fourth of one per cent per year on the amount of said bond or obligation by said

surety executed and shall be payable from the appropriation to the secretary of state.

History: 1979 c. 110 s. 60 (13); 1991 a. 316.

SUBCHAPTER IV

OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER

14.56 Office of state treasurer; creation. There is created an office of the state treasurer under the direction and supervision of the state treasurer.

14.57 Same; attached boards. There is created a college savings program board that is attached to the office of the state treasurer under s. 15.03 and that consists of all of the following members:

(1) The state treasurer or his or her designee.

(2) The president of the board of regents of the University of Wisconsin System or his or her designee.

(3) The president of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities or his or her designee.

(4) The chairperson of the investment board or his or her designee.

(5) The president of the technical college system board or his or her designee.

(6) Six other members, appointed for 4-year terms.

History: 1999 a. 44.

14.58 Duties of state treasurer. The state treasurer shall:

(1) SIGN CHECKS, SHARE DRAFTS, AND OTHER DRAFTS. Sign checks, share drafts, and other drafts on depositories in which moneys may be deposited in one of the following methods:

(a) By the state treasurer personally;

(b) By an assistant state treasurer, appointed as provided in s. 14.62, in the name of the state treasurer;

(c) In the name of the state treasurer, by any clerk in the treasurer's office designated by the treasurer; or

(d) By placing on a check, share draft or other draft the facsimile signature of the state treasurer adopted by him or her as a facsimile signature. Any depository shall be fully warranted and protected in making payment on any check, share draft or other draft bearing such facsimile notwithstanding that the facsimile may have been placed on the check, share draft or other draft without the state treasurer's authority.

(7) PERMIT EXAMINATION OF BOOKS. Permit at all times inspection and examination of the books, papers and transactions of the treasurer's office by the governor, secretary of state, attorney general, department of administration or state auditor, or by the legislature, any committee thereof or either house thereof.

(11) MAKE CERTIFIED COPIES. Make a certified copy of any deed, bond, document or paper filed in the treasurer's office, and transcripts from the books and records kept therein, when required by any person so to do; and collect therefor 25 cents per folio, and \$1 for such certificate.

(14) OTHER DUTIES. Perform all other duties imposed upon the state treasurer by law.

(20) ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND. Make disbursements to each candidate certified under s. 7.08 (2) (c) or (cm) by the elections board as eligible to receive moneys from the Wisconsin election campaign fund.

History: 1971 c. 164 s. 90; 1973 c. 333; 1975 c. 180, 189, 198, 421; 1977 c. 107; 1977 c. 196 s. 131; 1979 c. 34, 221; 1981 c. 20; 1983 a. 27; 1983 a. 36 s. 96 (2); 1983 a. 51; 1983 a. 189 s. 329 (21); 1983 a. 368, 408, 524, 538; 1985 a. 29; 1989 a. 31; 1991 a. 39, 189, 299, 316; 1995 a. 201; 2003 a. 33, 139.

14.59 Training conferences. The state treasurer may conduct conferences for the purpose of training county and municipal clerks and treasurers, and employees of their offices, in their official responsibilities. The treasurer may charge participants in any

conference a fee for participation which shall not exceed the proportionate cost of conducting the conference. The treasurer shall credit all revenues from fees assessed under this section to the appropriation account under s. 20.585 (1) (h).

History: 1995 a. 27.

14.60 State treasurer's bond. The bond of the state treasurer shall extend to the faithful execution of the duties of the office of state treasurer until a successor is elected and fully qualified. If the treasurer elects to give bond guaranteed by a surety company, the cost thereof and of any additional bond required of and furnished by the treasurer and so guaranteed shall be borne by the state and shall be paid out of the appropriation to the office of the state treasurer; if the annual cost thereof does not exceed 0.25% of the amount of said bond.

History: 1991 a. 316.

14.62 Assistant state treasurer; oath; bond; powers.

The state treasurer may appoint, in writing, an assistant state treasurer to perform any of the duties of the state treasurer, except to serve as a member of the board of commissioners of public lands. The assistant state treasurer shall take and subscribe the oath of office prescribed by [article IV, section 28, of the constitution](#) and shall give bond to the state treasurer in the sum and with the conditions the state treasurer prescribes, conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties. The oath of the assistant state treasurer and the certificate of appointment shall be filed and preserved in the office of the secretary of state. The state treasurer may require any employee to give bond to the state in the amount and with the conditions the state treasurer prescribes, conditioned for the faithful discharge of their duties. The cost of the bonds shall be charged to the appropriations under s. 20.585.

History: 1983 a. 192, 538.

14.63 College tuition and expenses program. (1) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) "Board" means the board of regents of the University of Wisconsin System.

(b) "Institution of higher education" means an eligible educational institution, as defined under [26 USC 529](#).

(2) WEIGHTED AVERAGE TUITION; TUITION UNIT COST. Annually, the state treasurer and the board jointly shall determine all of the following:

(a) The weighted average tuition of bachelor's degree-granting institutions within the University of Wisconsin System for the academic year that begins on or after the first day of August of the current year. The amount shall be calculated as follows:

1. For each such institution, multiply the tuition charged a full-time undergraduate who is a resident of this state by the number of full-time equivalent resident undergraduates attending the institution.

2. Add the products under subd. 1.

3. Divide the sum under subd. 2. by the total number of full-time equivalent resident undergraduates attending such institutions.

(b) The price of a tuition unit, which shall be valid for a period determined jointly by the state treasurer and the board. The price shall be sufficient to ensure the ability of the state treasurer to meet his or her obligations under this section. To the extent possible, the price shall be set so that the value of the tuition unit in the anticipated academic year of its use will be equal to 1% of the weighted average tuition for that academic year plus the costs of administering the program under this section attributable to the unit.

(3) COLLEGE TUITION AND EXPENSES CONTRACTS. (a) An individual, trust, legal guardian, or entity described under [26 USC 529](#) (e) (1) (C) may enter into a contract with the state treasurer for the sale of tuition units on behalf of a beneficiary.

(b) The contract shall specify the anticipated academic year of the beneficiary's initial enrollment in an institution of higher education.

(c) The state treasurer may charge a purchaser an enrollment fee.

(d) The state treasurer shall promulgate rules authorizing a person who has entered into a contract under this subsection to change the beneficiary named in the contract.

(4) NUMBER OF TUITION UNITS PURCHASED. A person who enters into a contract under sub. (3) may purchase tuition units at any time and in any number, except that the total number of tuition units purchased on behalf of a single beneficiary may not exceed the number necessary to cover tuition, fees and the costs of room and board, books, supplies and equipment required for enrollment or attendance of the beneficiary at an institution of higher education.

(5) PAYMENT OF TUITION. (a) Except as provided in sub. (7m), if an individual named as beneficiary in a contract under sub. (3) attends an institution of higher education in the United States, each tuition unit purchased on his or her behalf entitles that beneficiary to apply toward the payment of tuition, fees and the costs of room and board, books, supplies and equipment required for enrollment or attendance at the institution an amount equal to 1% of the anticipated weighted average tuition of bachelor's degree-granting institutions within the University of Wisconsin System for the year of attendance, as estimated under sub. (2) in the year in which the tuition unit was purchased.

(b) Upon request by the beneficiary, the state treasurer shall pay to the institution or beneficiary, whichever is appropriate, in each semester of attendance the lesser of the following:

1. An amount equal to the value of each tuition unit, as determined under par. (a), multiplied by the number of tuition units purchased on behalf of the beneficiary and not used.

2. An amount equal to the sum of the institution's tuition, fees and the costs described in par. (a) for that semester.

(6) TERMINATION OF CONTRACT. (a) A contract under sub. (3) may be terminated by the person entering into the contract if any of the following occurs:

1. The beneficiary dies or is permanently disabled.

2. The beneficiary graduates from high school but is unable to gain admission to an institution of higher education after a good faith effort.

3. The beneficiary attended an institution of higher education but involuntarily failed to complete the program in which he or she was enrolled.

4. The beneficiary is at least 18 years old and one of the following applies:

a. The beneficiary has not graduated from high school.

b. The beneficiary has decided not to attend an institution of higher education.

c. The beneficiary attended an institution of higher education but voluntarily withdrew without completing the program in which he or she was enrolled.

5. Other circumstances determined by the state treasurer to be grounds for termination.

(b) The state treasurer may terminate a contract under sub. (3) if any of the tuition units purchased under the contract remain unused 10 years after the anticipated academic year of the beneficiary's initial enrollment in an institution of higher education, as specified in the contract.

(7) REFUNDS. (a) Except as provided in sub. (7m), the state treasurer shall do all of the following:

1. When a beneficiary completes the program in which he or she is enrolled, if the beneficiary has not used all of the tuition units purchased on his or her behalf, refund to the person who entered into the contract an amount equal to 1% of the anticipated weighted average tuition in the academic year in which the beneficiary completed the program, as estimated under sub. (2) in the year in which the tuition units were purchased, multiplied by the number of tuition units purchased by the person and not used by the beneficiary.

2. If a contract is terminated under sub. (6) (a) 1., 2. or 3., refund to the person who entered into the contract an amount equal to 1% of the anticipated weighted average tuition in the academic year in which the contract is terminated, as estimated under sub. (2) in the year in which the tuition units were purchased, multiplied by the number of tuition units purchased by the person and not used by the beneficiary.

3. If a contract is terminated under sub. (6) (a) 4. or (b), refund to the person who entered into the contract an amount equal to 99% of the amount determined under subd. 2.

4. If a contract is terminated under sub. (6) (a) 5., refund to the person who entered into the contract the amount under subd. 2. or under subd. 3., as determined by the state treasurer.

5. If the beneficiary is awarded a scholarship, tuition waiver or similar subsidy that cannot be converted into cash by the beneficiary, refund to the person who entered into the contract, upon the person's request, an amount equal to the value of the tuition units that are not needed because of the scholarship, waiver or similar subsidy and that would otherwise have been paid by the state treasurer on behalf of the beneficiary during the semester in which the beneficiary is enrolled.

(b) The state treasurer shall determine the method and schedule for the payment of refunds under this subsection.

(7m) TUITION UNIT VALUE ADJUSTMENT; REFUND ADJUSTMENT.

(a) The state treasurer may adjust the value of a tuition unit based on the actual earnings attributable to the tuition unit less the costs of administering the program under this section that are attributable to the tuition unit if any of the following applies:

1. The individual named as the beneficiary in a contract under sub. (3) wishes to use the tuition unit for the payment of tuition in a year other than the anticipated academic year of attendance, as specified in the contract.

2. The individual named as the beneficiary in a contract under sub. (3), or the person who entered into the contract, wishes to receive a refund under sub. (7) in a year other than the anticipated academic year of the beneficiary's attendance, as specified in the contract.

(b) The state treasurer may not increase the value of a tuition unit under par. (a) to an amount that exceeds the value of a tuition unit that was purchased at a similar time, held for a similar period and used or refunded in the anticipated academic year of the beneficiary's attendance, as specified in the contract.

(c) The state treasurer may promulgate rules imposing or increasing penalties for refunds under sub. (7) (a) if the state treasurer determines that such rules are necessary to maintain the status of the program under this section as a qualified state tuition program under section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, as defined in s. 71.01 (6).

(8) EXEMPTION FROM GARNISHMENT, ATTACHMENT AND EXECUTION. Moneys deposited in the tuition trust fund and a beneficiary's right to the payment of tuition, fees and the costs described in sub. (5) (a) under this section are not subject to garnishment, attachment, execution or any other process of law.

(9) CONTRACT WITH ACTUARY. The state treasurer shall contract with an actuary or actuarial firm to evaluate annually whether the assets in the tuition trust fund are sufficient to meet the obligations of the state treasurer under this section and to advise the state treasurer on setting the price of a tuition unit under sub. (2) (b).

(10) REPORTS. (a) Annually, the state treasurer shall submit a report to the governor, and to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature under s. 13.172 (3), on the program under this section. The report shall include any recommendations for changes to the program that the state treasurer determines are necessary to ensure the sufficiency of the tuition trust fund to meet the state treasurer's obligations under this section.

(b) The state treasurer shall submit a quarterly report to the state investment board projecting the future cash flow needs of the tuition trust fund. The state investment board shall invest moneys held in the tuition trust fund in investments with maturities and

liquidity that are appropriate for the needs of the fund as reported by the state treasurer in his or her quarterly reports. All income derived from such investments shall be credited to the fund.

(11) CONSTRUCTION. (a) Nothing in this section guarantees an individual's admission to, retention by or graduation from any institution of higher education.

(b) The requirements to pay tuition, fees and the costs of room and board, books, supplies and equipment under sub. (5) and to make refunds under sub. (7) are subject to the availability of sufficient assets in the tuition trust fund.

(11m) FINANCIAL AID CALCULATIONS. The value of tuition units shall not be included in the calculation of a beneficiary's eligibility for state financial aid for higher education if the beneficiary notifies the higher educational aids board and the institution of higher education that the beneficiary is planning to attend that he or she is a beneficiary of a contract under this section and the contract owner agrees to release to the higher educational aids board and the institution of higher education information necessary for the calculation under this subsection.

(12) ADDITIONAL DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE STATE TREASURER. (a) The state treasurer shall do all of the following:

1. Annually publish a list of the institutions of higher education located in this state and the number of tuition units necessary to pay for one year of full-time attendance as a resident undergraduate at each institution.

2. Actively promote the program under this section.

3. Promulgate rules to implement and administer this section.

(b) The state treasurer may do any of the following:

1. Contract with any person for the management and operation of the program or any part of the program under this section.

2. Keep personal and financial information pertaining to a purchaser of tuition units or a beneficiary of tuition units closed to the public.

(13) PROGRAM TERMINATION. If the state treasurer determines that the program under this section is financially infeasible, the state treasurer shall discontinue entering into contracts under sub. (3) and discontinue selling tuition units under sub. (4).

History: 1995 a. 403; 1997 a. 27, 158; 1999 a. 9 ss. 52 to 62; Stats. 1999 s. 14.63; 1999 a. 44; 2001 a. 7, 16.

14.64 College savings program. (1) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) "Account owner" means a person who establishes a college savings account under this section.

(b) "Board" means the college savings program board.

(2) DUTIES OF THE BOARD. The board shall do all of the following:

(a) Except as provided in s. 16.255, establish and administer a college savings program that allows an individual, trust, legal guardian, or entity described under 26 USC 529 (e) (1) (C) to establish a college savings account to cover tuition, fees, and the costs of room and board, books, supplies, and equipment required for the enrollment or attendance of a beneficiary at an eligible educational institution, as defined under 26 USC 529.

(b) Ensure that the college savings program meets the requirements of a qualified state tuition plan under 26 USC 529.

(c) Establish investment guidelines for contributions to college savings accounts and pay distributions to beneficiaries and eligible educational institutions.

(d) Provide to each account owner, and to persons who are interested in establishing a college savings account, information about current and estimated future higher education costs, levels of participation in the college savings program that will help achieve educational funding objectives and availability of and access to financial aid.

(e) Promulgate rules to implement and administer this section, including rules that determine whether a withdrawal from a college savings account is a qualified or nonqualified withdrawal, as defined under 26 USC 529, and that impose more than a de mini-

mis penalty, as defined under [26 USC 529](#), for nonqualified withdrawals.

(f) Seek rulings and guidance from the U.S. department of the treasury, the internal revenue service and the securities and exchange commission to ensure the proper implementation and administration of the college savings program.

(g) Ensure that if the department of administration changes vendors, the balances of college savings accounts are promptly transferred into investment instruments as similar to the original investment instruments as possible.

(h) Keep personal and financial information pertaining to an account owner or a beneficiary closed to the public, except that the board may release to the appropriate state agency information necessary in determining a beneficiary's eligibility for state financial aid for higher education.

(3) ACCOUNT OWNERS; BENEFICIARIES; CONTRIBUTIONS; TERMINATION OF SAVINGS ACCOUNTS. (a) An account owner may do all of the following:

1. Contribute to a college savings account
2. Select a beneficiary of a college savings account.
3. Change the beneficiary of a college savings account to a family member, as defined under [26 USC 529](#), of the previous beneficiary.
4. Transfer all or a portion of a college savings account to another college savings account whose beneficiary is a member of the family.
5. Designate a person other than the beneficiary as a person to whom funds may be paid from a college savings account.
6. Receive distributions from a college savings account if no other person is designated.

(b) An individual may be the beneficiary of more than one college savings account, and an account owner may be the beneficiary of a college savings account that the account owner has established.

(c) The board shall establish a minimum initial contribution to a college savings account that may be waived if the account owner agrees to contribute to a college savings account through a payroll deduction or automatic deposit plan. The board shall ensure that any such plan permits the adjustment of scheduled deposits because of a change in the account owner's economic circumstances or a beneficiary's educational plans.

(d) An account owner under this section may terminate his or her college savings account if any of the following occurs:

1. The beneficiary dies or is permanently disabled.
2. The beneficiary graduates from high school but is unable to gain admission to an institution of higher education after a good faith effort.
3. The beneficiary attended an institution of higher education but involuntarily failed to complete the program in which he or she was enrolled.
4. The beneficiary is at least 18 years old and one of the following applies:
 - a. The beneficiary has not graduated from high school.
 - b. The beneficiary has decided not to attend an institution of higher education.
 - c. The beneficiary attended an institution of higher education but voluntarily withdrew without completing the program in which he or she was enrolled.
5. Other circumstances determined by the board to be grounds for termination.

(e) The board may terminate a college savings account if any portion of the college savings account balance remains unused 10 years after the anticipated academic year of the beneficiary's initial enrollment in an eligible educational institution.

(4) CONTRACTS WITH PROFESSIONALS. The board may enter into a contract for the services of accountants, attorneys, consul-

tants and other professionals to assist in the administration and evaluation of the college savings program.

(5) REPORT. Annually, the board shall submit a report to the governor, and to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature under s. [13.172 \(3\)](#), on the performance of the college savings program, including any recommended changes to the program.

(6) CONSTRUCTION. Nothing in this section guarantees an individual's admission to, retention by or graduation from any institution of higher education; a rate of interest or return on a college savings account; or the payment of principal, interest or return on a college savings account.

(7) EXEMPTION FROM GARNISHMENT, ATTACHMENT AND EXECUTION; SECURITY FOR LOAN. (a) A beneficiary's right to qualified withdrawals under this section is not subject to garnishment, attachment, execution or other process of law.

(b) No interest in a college savings account may be pledged as security for a loan.

(8) FINANCIAL AID CALCULATIONS. The balance of a college savings account shall not be included in the calculation of a beneficiary's eligibility for state financial aid for higher education if the beneficiary notifies the higher educational aids board and the eligible educational institution that the beneficiary is planning to attend that he or she is a beneficiary of a college savings account and if the account owner agrees to release to the higher educational aids board and the eligible educational institution information necessary for the calculation under this subsection.

History: 1999 a. 44; 2001 a. 7, 38.

Cross Reference: See also ch. [Treas 1](#), Wis. adm. code.

14.65 Repayment to the general fund. **(1)** The secretary of administration shall transfer from the tuition trust fund or the college savings program trust fund to the general fund an amount equal to the amount expended from the appropriations under s. [20.505 \(9\) \(a\)](#), 1995 stats., s. [20.585 \(2\) \(a\)](#), 2001 stats., and s. [20.585 \(2\) \(am\)](#), 2001 stats., when the secretary of administration determines that funds in the tuition trust fund or the college savings program trust fund are sufficient to make the transfer. The secretary of administration may make the transfer in installments.

(2) Annually, by June 1, the state treasurer shall submit a report to the secretary of administration and the joint committee on finance on the amount available for repayment under sub. **(1)**, the amount repaid under sub. **(1)**, and the outstanding balance under sub. **(1)**.

History: 2001 a. 16; 2003 a. 33.

SUBCHAPTER V

INTERSTATE BODIES AND AGREEMENTS

14.76 Interstate compacts. **(1)** This section shall apply to the establishment of agreements not affecting the sovereignty of the United States.

(2) Any state agency may agree by compact with other states to apply existing standards for residents to nonresidents if the laws or regulations of the states with which such compacts are made are similarly applied to Wisconsin residents. The compact shall be effective when approved by joint resolution adopted by the legislature.

(3) Any state agency may negotiate compacts with similar agencies in other states relating to the treatment of nonresidents on subjects within its delegated powers but on which no legislation providing standards has been enacted. Such compacts shall be submitted to the legislature and shall be effective when approved as are bills.

(4) Each compact shall as nearly as possible set forth:

(a) The statutory authority for the delegated power under which the agency is proceeding.

(b) The legal effect of the compact as shown by the amendments to statutes and rules in the applicable states required to accomplish the objectives of the compact.

- (c) The objectives of the compact.
- (d) The precise reasons for the compact.
- (e) The standards established by the compact.
- (f) The procedures contemplated by the compact.
- (g) The effective date of the compact.
- (h) The effect of the compact upon:
 1. Public finances.
 2. Public policy.

History: 1971 c. 62; 1983 a. 308.

14.78 Great Lakes compact commission. (1) MEMBERS; TERMS. There is created a Great Lakes compact commission consisting of 3 commissioners appointed by the governor. The commissioners shall be persons having knowledge of and interest in problems of the Great Lakes basin. One commissioner, appointed for an indefinite term, shall be a state officer or employee and shall serve as secretary of the Great Lakes compact commission. The other commissioners shall be appointed for terms of 4 years. The commissioners shall receive no salaries but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses.

(2) DUTIES. It is the duty of the Wisconsin Great Lakes compact commission:

(a) To represent this state on the Great Lakes commission created by the Great Lakes basin compact ratified and enacted by [chapter 275, laws of 1955](#), and through such representation to perform the functions of the Great Lakes commission in conjunction with the commissioners of other party states. Whenever a vote is required by the terms of the Great Lakes basin compact, each member of the Wisconsin Great Lakes compact commission is authorized to cast the same proportion of the 3 votes to which the state of Wisconsin is entitled under the compact as each of the other members of the Wisconsin Great Lakes compact commission.

(b) To maintain a continuing investigation of the project of connecting the Great Lakes with the Atlantic ocean by means of the Welland canal and the St. Lawrence River and to urge upon congress the enactment of additional appropriate legislation to enable the full development of such waterway, the commission to work in conjunction with similar commissions in other states and with other interested groups and agencies in the promotion of such project.

(c) To direct and execute a program of education in such form as the commission may determine, in support of the projects for development of the St. Lawrence seaway and the deepening of the Great Lakes connecting channels, using not to exceed the amount of funds appropriated for that purpose.

(d) To report biennially in accordance with [s. 15.04 \(1\) \(d\)](#), and to make such other reports as are requested by the governor or which it deems appropriate.

(3) FINANCING COMMISSION. The Great Lakes compact commission may annually contribute to the Great Lakes commission not to exceed the amount appropriated for that purpose.

(4) STATE OFFICERS TO AID COMMISSION. It is the policy of the state to carry out the Great Lakes basin compact and to accomplish the purposes thereof, and all officers of the state shall do all things falling within their respective jurisdictions necessary or incidental to carrying out such compact. Officers, agencies and employees of the state government shall, at reasonable times and upon the request of the Great Lakes commission, furnish such commission with information and data within their possession and aid such commission by loan of personnel and other means lying within their respective legal powers.

History: 1975 c. 39, 198; 1977 c. 196 s. 131.

14.81 Midwest interstate low-level radioactive waste commission. (1) There is created a midwest low-level radio-

active waste commission as specified under [s. 16.11 \(3\) \(a\)](#). The member of the commission representing this state shall be nominated by the governor, and with the advice and consent of the senate appointed, to serve at the pleasure of the governor. The commission member representing this state shall receive a per diem of \$25, unless he or she is a salaried full-time employee of this state, and shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his or her duties on the commission. Per diem payments and expenses of the commissioner shall be paid from the appropriation under [s. 20.505 \(1\) \(g\)](#). The commission has the powers and duties granted and imposed under [s. 16.11](#).

(2) In discharging his or her responsibilities under [s. 16.11](#), the commission member representing this state shall:

(a) Designate an alternate commission member and notify the governor and legislature of this designation within 30 days after being appointed.

(b) Request the commission to conduct a public hearing on the draft disposal plan under [s. 16.11 \(4\) \(d\)](#).

(c) Notify the governor and legislature if:

1. The commission proposes to designate this state as a host state for a facility, as defined in [s. 16.11 \(2\) \(h\)](#).

2. The commission proposes to impose any liability on the state under [s. 16.11](#).

3. He or she has reason to believe that the state should withdraw from the midwest interstate low-level radioactive waste compact specified in [s. 16.11](#).

(3) In negotiating and developing the bylaws, disposal plan and other appropriate documents as a member of the commission, the commission member representing this state shall:

(a) Promote this state's interest in including insurance requirements and an extended care and long-term liability fund as a part of the disposal plan or other appropriate documents.

(b) Encourage the pursuit of sound low-level radioactive waste management practices including minimizing the dependence on the shallow burial of this type of waste.

(c) Promote this state's interest in an equitable distribution and rotation of responsibilities among member states under the compact.

(d) Encourage, to the fullest extent of his or her influence and authority, actions and procedures which permit and encourage full and meaningful public access and participation in the commission's proceedings including informal meetings and meetings of committees and subcommittees of the commission and full and meaningful public access to commission records and documents.

(e) Encourage the establishment of a fee system which provides for adequate compensation to local units of government which are affected by the siting of a regional low-level radioactive waste disposal facility.

(f) Promote the right of this state under [s. 16.11 \(5\) \(b\)](#) to have all low-level radioactive wastes generated within its borders, including low-level radioactive wastes generated at the La Crosse boiling water reactor constructed under section 109 of P.L. 87-315, disposed of at compact facilities, as defined in [s. 16.11 \(2\) \(d\)](#), or any noncompact facility made available by an agreement entered into under [s. 16.11 \(3\) \(h\) 6](#).

History: 1983 a. 393; 1995 a. 115.

14.83 Interstate insurance receivership commission.

There is created an interstate insurance receivership commission as specified in [s. 601.59 \(3\)](#). The member of the commission representing this state shall be the commissioner of insurance or his or her designated representative. The commission member shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed from the appropriation under [s. 20.145 \(1\) \(g\)](#) for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his or her duties. The commission has the powers and duties granted and imposed under [s. 601.59](#).

History: 1995 a. 462

14.84 Great Lakes protection fund. (1) The governor may provide for the participation of this state in the formation and operation of the Great Lakes protection fund on behalf of this state if all of the following apply to the fund:

(a) The fund is established to advance the principal goals and objectives of the Great Lakes toxic substances control agreement and the water quality agreement signed by the United States and Canada.

(b) The fund is established to finance and support state and regional projects related to the protection, research and cleanup of the Great Lakes.

(c) Earnings and interest from the fund will be available to this state for all of the following purposes:

1. To ensure a stable and predictable funding commitment for Great Lakes water quality.

2. Data collection and analysis of the economic, environmental and human health effects of contamination in the Great Lakes.

3. Development of new or improved environmental clean-up technologies applicable to the Great Lakes.

4. Research to assess the effectiveness of pollution control policies affecting the Great Lakes.

5. Assessment of the health of Great Lakes fish, waterfowl and other organisms.

(d) The fund will be operative when it is executed by this state and at least 3 other states under the articles of incorporation of the fund.

(2) The governor shall nominate 2 persons to represent this state on the board of directors of the Great Lakes protection fund. Those persons shall be appointed with the advice and consent of the senate.

History: 1989 a. 31.

14.85 Mississippi River parkway commission.

(1) There is created a Mississippi River parkway commission consisting of the following members:

(a) One member from each of the counties of Buffalo, Crawford, Grant, La Crosse, Pepin, Pierce, Trempealeau and Vernon.

(b) Two senators and 2 representatives to the assembly. The 2 major political parties shall be represented in the membership from each house.

(2) The secretary of commerce, the secretary of tourism, the secretary of natural resources, the secretary of transportation and the director of the historical society, or their designees, shall serve as nonvoting members of the commission.

(3) Each member under sub. (1) shall be appointed by the governor for a 4-year term. Any vacancy shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term by the governor as soon as practicable.

(4) The commission shall elect its own chairperson and officers other than a chairperson from among its members as its work requires. The commission chairperson shall:

(a) Be the sole voting representative of this state at meetings of the national Mississippi River parkway commission.

(b) Report to the commission on the activities of the national Mississippi River parkway commission.

(c) Serve as commission secretary, designate a member of the commission to serve as commission secretary or require an election by the commission of a commission secretary.

(d) Notify the members of meetings of the commission and keep a record of its proceedings, or delegate these responsibilities to the commission secretary.

(5) The commission shall:

(a) Assist in coordinating the development and preservation of the Great River Road in Wisconsin and its embellishments, such as scenic easements, roadside parks and scenic overlooks.

(b) Assist other state agencies in all efforts to create a unified development of the Great River Road in Wisconsin and any of its collateral features.

(c) Cooperate with similar committees or commissions in other states and Canadian provinces in the furtherance of the ultimate development of the Great River Road from Canada to the gulf of Mexico.

(d) Consult with the appropriate regional planning commissions regarding the Mississippi River parkway.

(e) Assist in promoting as an attractive travel destination the Great River Road in Wisconsin and the unique historical, cultural, aesthetic and recreational features along the route of the Great River Road, such as local communities, off-road parks and forests, and water-oriented facilities.

(6) The commission shall meet quarterly and may meet at other times on the call of the chairperson.

(7) The departments and agencies of this state shall, within existing appropriations and to the best of their respective abilities, cooperate with the commission in the execution of its functions.

(8) (a) The annual membership dues for the commission shall be paid from the appropriation under s. 20.395 (4) (aq).

(b) The members of the commission shall serve without compensation but, except as provided in par. (c), shall be reimbursed from the appropriation under s. 20.395 (4) (aq) for 75% of actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties under guidelines for reimbursement established by the department of transportation.

(c) The chairperson of the commission shall be reimbursed from the appropriation under s. 20.395 (4) (aq) for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing his or her duties under guidelines for reimbursement established by the department of transportation.

(d) If permitted by law, any state agency or local public body, board, commission or agency may allocate funds under its control to fund programs recommended by the commission. If the department of commerce determines that a program recommended by the commission to undertake activities relating to the promotion of economic development is consistent with the department's statewide economic development plans, priorities and resources, the department shall have primary responsibility to support the activities of the program. If the department of tourism determines that a program recommended by the commission to undertake activities relating to the promotion of tourism is consistent with the department's statewide tourism marketing plans, priorities and resources, the department shall have primary responsibility to support the activities of the program.

(9) The commission may establish a technical committee to advise the commission. The members of the committee shall include at least one employee each from the department of transportation, the department of tourism and the department of commerce. The commission shall request the department of transportation, the department of tourism and the department of commerce to designate employees to serve on the committee and may request any other state agency to designate an employee to serve on the committee.

(10) Unless specifically provided otherwise by the commission with respect to committees or other similar bodies, a majority of the voting members constitute a quorum to do business.

History: 1975 c. 39, 199; 1977 c. 418; 1979 c. 34 s. 2102 (52) (a); 1985 a. 29 s. 3202 (51); 1991 a. 39; 1995 a. 27 ss. 66 to 68, 9116 (5).

14.90 Midwestern higher education commission.

(1) There is created a midwestern higher education commission as specified under s. 39.80 (2) (a) consisting of the following members representing this state:

(a) The governor or his or her designee.

(b) One representative to the assembly appointed by the speaker to the assembly for a 2-year term.

(c) One senator appointed by the president of the senate for a 2-year term.

(d) One member representing higher education appointed by the governor for a 4–year term.

(e) One member representing higher education appointed by the governor for a 2–year term.

(2) The members of the commission shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed from the appropriation under s. [20.505 \(4\) \(ba\)](#) for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the

performance of their duties. The commission has the powers granted and the duties imposed under s. [39.80](#).

(3) From the appropriation under s. [20.505 \(4\) \(ba\)](#), the department of administration shall pay the costs of membership in and costs associated with the midwestern higher education compact.

History: [1993 a. 358, 491](#); [1997 a. 27](#); [2001 a. 16](#).