



STATE OF WISCONSIN Assembly Journal

Ninety-Fourth Regular Session

TUESDAY, September 5, 2000

The Chief Clerk makes the following entries under the above date:

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Assembly Clearinghouse Rule 00-066

Relating to emergency assistance for families facing impending homelessness.

Submitted by Department of Workforce Development.
Report received from Agency, August 30, 2000.
To committee on **Children and Families**.
Referred on August 31, 2000.

Assembly Clearinghouse Rule 00-067

Relating to public assistance record retention.
Submitted by Department of Workforce Development.
Report received from Agency, August 30, 2000.
To committee on **Children and Families**.
Referred on August 31, 2000.

Assembly Clearinghouse Rule 00-059

Relating to restaurants.
Submitted by Department of Health and Family Services.
Report received from Agency, August 31, 2000.
To committee on **Public Health**.
Referred on September 5, 2000.

Assembly Clearinghouse Rule 00-060

Relating to retail food establishments.
Submitted by Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.
Report received from Agency, August 31, 2000.
To committee on **Public Health**.
Referred on September 5, 2000.

Assembly Clearinghouse Rule 00-109

Relating to division of land abutting a state trunk or connecting highway.
Submitted by Department of Transportation.
Report received from Agency, August 29, 2000.
To committee on **Transportation**.
Referred on August 30, 2000.

COMMUNICATIONS

August 29, 2000

The Honorable Tony Staskunas
Wisconsin State Assembly
The Capitol, Room 124 North
Dear Representative Staskunas:

As Assembly Minority Leader, it is my pleasure to appoint you to the State Fair Park Board pursuant to § 15.445 (4) 1 (Wis. Stats.) as affected by 1999 Wisconsin Act 197. The board is directed to manage the State Fair Park and supervise its use for fairs, exhibits or promotional events for agriculture, commercial, educational and recreational purposes. Your appointment is effective as provided in §§ 26 and 27 of Act 197 and shall last five years.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Assembly.

Sincerely,
SHIRLEY KRUG
Assembly Democratic Leader

State of Wisconsin
Revisor of Statutes Bureau
Madison

DATE: September 1, 2000

TO: Charles Sanders
Assembly Chief Clerk

Donald J. Schneider
Senate Chief Clerk

FROM: Gary L. Poulson
Deputy Revisor of Statutes

SUBJECT: Rules published in the August 31, 2000,
Wisconsin Administrative Register, No. 536.

The following rules have been published:

Clearinghouse Rule 97-072	effective	9-1-2000
Clearinghouse Rule 99-109	effective	9-1-2000
Clearinghouse Rule 00-001	effective	9-1-2000
Clearinghouse Rule 00-023	effective	9-1-2000
Clearinghouse Rule 00-044	effective	9-1-2000
Clearinghouse Rule 00-052	effective	9-1-2000
Clearinghouse Rule 00-057	effective	9-1-2000

Clearinghouse Rule 00-061 effective 9-1-2000
Clearinghouse Rule 00-063 effective 9-1-2000
Clearinghouse Rule 00-068 effective 9-1-2000
Clearinghouse Rule 00-069 effective 9-1-2000
Clearinghouse Rule 00-077 effective 9-1-2000
Clearinghouse Rule 00-085 effective 9-1-2000

REFERRAL OF AGENCY REPORTS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Administration
Madison

August 11, 2000

To the Honorable, the Legislature:

This report is transmitted as required by sec. 20.002(11)(f), Wis. Stats. (for distribution to the appropriate standing committees under sec. 13.172(3), Wis. Stats.), and confirms that the Department of Administration has found it necessary to exercise the "temporary reallocation of balances" authority provided by this section in order to meet payment responsibilities and cover resulting negative balances during the month of July 2000.

On July 1, 2000 the **Wisconsin Health Education Loan Repayment Fund** balance was -\$11 thousand. This shortfall increased to -\$12 thousand on July 7, 2000, to -\$13 thousand on July 12, 2000, and continued until July 25, 2000 when the balance reached \$9 thousand. This shortfall was due to the timing of revenues.

The Wisconsin Health Education Loan Repayment Fund shortfall was not in excess of the statutory interfund borrowing limitation and did not exceed the balances of the Funds available for interfund borrowing.

The distribution of interest earnings to investment pool participants is based on the average daily balance in the pool and each fund's share. Therefore, the monthly calculation by the State Controller's Office will automatically reflect the use of these temporary reallocations of balance authority.

Sincerely,
GEORGE LIGHTBOURN
Secretary

Referred to committee on **Ways and Means**.

State of Wisconsin
Department of Administration
Madison

August 15, 2000

To the Honorable, the Legislature:

Chapter 34, Laws of 1979, requires that when the Department of Administration maintains an office in Washington, D.C., for the purpose of promoting federal/state cooperation, it should submit a report detailing the activities of the office and

reporting the status of federal legislation of concern to the Legislature and other state agencies (Wis. Stats. 16.548(2)).

The report for the period April, 2000, through June, 2000, is attached.

Sincerely,
GEORGE LIGHTBOURN
Secretary

Referred to committee on **State Affairs**.

State of Wisconsin
Department of Revenue
Madison

August 25, 2000

To the Honorable, the Assembly:

The Benevolent Retirement Home for the Aged Task Force was created under **1997 Wisconsin Act 27** to investigate the property tax exemption for benevolent retirement homes and all problems that are associated with it.

The task force has completed its work. The reports to be submitted in the manner provided under s. 13.172(2), Wis. Stats., are attached. One report is submitted on behalf of the five members representing the not-for-profit perspective. The other report (entitled "The Government 5 Report") is submitted on behalf of the five members representing for-profit facilities and taxing jurisdictions.

Other attachments include a Department of Revenue Staff Summary of the work of the task force and an appendix consisting of presentations at task force meetings and materials distributed to members.

Sincerely,
TOM OURADA
Executive Assistant

Referred to committee on **Ways and Means**.

State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources
Madison

September 1, 2000

To the Honorable, the Assembly:

Subject: Study of the States Program for Regulating the Land Application of Septage

Pursuant to **1999 Wisconsin Act 9** section 9136 (7), the Department is required to study the state's program for regulating the application of septage to land and submit a report presenting the results of the study to the Legislature in the manner provided in section 13.172 (2) of the statutes.

That study, the **Audit Report of DNR Septage Management Program**, prepared by Dr. Aga Razvi of the UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources is attached. The Department

believed it best to contract the program audit to an independent neutral party.

Dr. Razvi attempted to contact as many parties involved in various aspects of the septage program as possible to gain a panoramic perspective of the issues and the effectiveness of DNR's oversight. This included County staff, septage pumpers, publicly owned treatment works representatives, DNR staff and Town chairpersons.

The Department believes the audit contains numerous beneficial recommendations. The audit particularly emphasizes that the Department has inadequate staff assigned to the septage program to ensure effective oversight. The conclusions bear out recommendations which have been proposed through several Department initiatives over the past several years. The Department had requested additional staff as part of a far-reaching septage proposal including a funding mechanism in the 1999-2001 biennial budget. While maintenance of septic systems was beyond the scope of this audit, it was a major portion of the Department budget proposal and is a component which may merit further examination.

Please feel free to contact Greg Kester of my staff at 608-267-7611, if you have any questions or comments regarding the enclosed report, or if you would like additional copies.

Sincerely,
GEORGE E. MEYER
Secretary

Referred to committee on **Environment**.

AGENCY REPORTS

Southeast Wisconsin
Professional Baseball Park District
Milwaukee

August 17, 2000

To the Honorable, the Legislature:

Enclosed please find the Miller Park Monthly Progress Report for the month of July 2000 for your review and consideration. As the enclosed report indicates, Miller Park continues to develop with the District Board's objectives of building the premier baseball facility in the country; scheduled for play on Opening Day 2001; within budget; and with meaningful community participation.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you should have any questions or comments regarding the enclosed report.

Very truly yours,
MICHAEL R. DUCKETT, P.E., R.L.S.
Executive Director

State of Wisconsin
Legislative Audit Bureau
Madison

August 25, 2000

To the Honorable, the Legislature:

We recently completed a financial audit of the Mendota and Winnebago Mental Health Institutes for the period July 1, 1998 through June 30, 1999. The audit was requested by the Department of Health and Family Services to comply with requirements of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. We were able to express an unqualified opinion on each Institute's financial statements. These statements show that, on an accrual basis, Mendota Mental Health Institute had net income of \$787,000 and Winnebago Mental Health Institute had net income of \$2.6 million.

For several years, the Department did not maintain an adequate system to accumulate accurate and reliable information on patient revenues and outstanding patient accounts receivables and to summarize that information for financial reporting purposes. In January 1999, the Department began implementing a new billing and receivable system; however, the new system is not yet able to produce receivable balances that we can rely upon for financial statement purposes. Most significantly, the process to determine and establish beginning receivable balances in the new system has not been completed. In addition, patient billings for April through June 1999 were delayed six months. As a result, there is increased risk that net patient revenues and net patient accounts receivable are misstated in the financial statements.

We anticipate that as the Department completes its analysis of receivable balances and continues to work with the software vendor to address system issues, the information on the new system will be more reliable and will allow for more accurate reporting of the Institutes' patient receivable balances in the future. However, we recommend in a management letter to the Department that it take additional steps to increase accounting staff's familiarity with information available from the new system and how that information can be used in the financial reporting process.

We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to us by Department of Health and Family Services staff during our audit.

Respectfully submitted,
JANICE MUELLER
State Auditor