

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Senate Journal
Ninety–Fourth Regular Session

WEDNESDAY, July 12, 2000

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

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

**State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction**

July 6, 2000

The Honorable, The Legislature:

In accordance with Section [115.38\(3\)](#), Wisconsin Statutes, the state superintendent is required to publish and distribute to the legislature under s. [13.172\(2\)](#) a summary of the reports under sub. (2).

As a partial fulfillment of the above statutory requirements, please find enclosed a copy of each of the following 1998-99 *Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations* reports which include the performance of pupils, by subject area, on the statewide assessment examinations administered under s. [118.30](#), Wis. Stats.:

Wisconsin School Performance Report Results for Districts and Schools Within Districts, Volume I, Grade 4

Wisconsin School Performance Report Results for Districts and Schools Within Districts, Volume II, Grade 8

Wisconsin School Performance Report Results for Districts and Schools Within Districts, Volume III, Grade 10

Sincerely,

STEVEN B. DOLD
Deputy State Superintendent

**State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services**

June 26, 2000

The Honorable, The Senate:

As required by s. [242.04\(11\)](#), Wis Stats., enclosed is the Annual Statewide Immunization Program Report. Please distribute this report to the appropriate standing committees.

Sincerely,

JOE LEEAN
Secretary

Referred to committee on **Health, Utilities, Veterans and Military Affairs**.

**State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services**

June 30, 2000

The Honorable, The Legislature:

Section [46.972\(4\)](#) of the statutes requires the Department of Health and Family Services to submit to the Legislature a report each year on the allocation and expenditure of funds for

services for homeless individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. Attached is the report for Calendar Year 1999.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Hendrickson, Director, Bureau of Community Mental Health. His phone number is 267-9282.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,
JOE LEEAN
Secretary

**State of Wisconsin
Legislative Audit Bureau**

July 11, 2000

The Honorable, The Legislature:

As directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, we have completed our evaluation of Wisconsin's Food Stamp Program, which is administered by the Department of Workforce Development. The program was created by the federal government in 1964 to assist low-income individuals and families in purchasing food. In January, 2000, approximately 75 percent of those receiving program benefits in Wisconsin were either children, disabled, or over age 60.

Under federal law, food stamps are an entitlement to those who meet both nonfinancial and financial eligibility requirements. Program benefits are almost entirely federally funded. In fiscal year (FY) 1998-99, benefit costs were \$122.7 million; administrative costs, which are funded equally by the federal government and state general purpose revenue, totaled \$45.0 million. Approximately 311,800 Wisconsin individuals participated in the program in FY 1998-99.

In July 1999, a federal report showed that as welfare reforms were implemented nationally, Food Stamp Program participation declined faster in Wisconsin than in any other state. Our analysis confirmed this decline. Based on the best available data, we estimate that from 1994 through 1998, the percentage of individuals living in poverty in Wisconsin who received food stamps declined from 97 to 70 percent. A number of factors are likely responsible for this trend, including the effects of Wisconsin Works and other welfare reform initiatives, more frequent recertification requirements for benefit recipients, additional work requirements for some food stamp recipients, and administrative problems in local agencies. As Food Stamp Program participation has declined, alternative food programs that provide nonperishable food and meals have reported increased demand for their services.

The Department and local agencies have undertaken a number of initiatives to improve program administration, including providing caseworkers with additional training, expanding the number of program application sites and the hours during which applications are taken, and working with alternative food programs to facilitate access to food stamp benefits. If the Legislature believes additional efforts to expand program

services are appropriate, a number of other options could be exercised, but some would require changes in federal law.

We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to us by the Department of Workforce Development and staff of the local agencies we visited. The Department's response in Appendix III.

Sincerely,

JANICE MUELLER
State Auditor

**State of Wisconsin
Department of Corrections**

July 6, 2000

The Honorable, The Legislature:

The Department of Corrections has no claims under the above to report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000. Our legal counsel personnel have reviewed settlements during FY 00 and have determined that none apply to ss. 227.485 and 814.245 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Sincerely,

JON LITSCHER
Secretary

**State of Wisconsin
Ethics Board**

July 11, 2000

The Honorable, The Senate:

The following lobbyists have been authorized to act on behalf of the organizations set opposite their names.

For more detailed information about these lobbyists and organizations and a complete list of organizations and people authorized to lobby the 1999 session of the legislature, visit the Ethics Board's web site at <http://ethics.state.wi.us>

Bochert, Linda **Energy Services of Manitowoc LLC**

Schreier, David **Aventis Pharmaceuticals**

Also available from the Wisconsin Ethics Board are reports identifying the amount and value of time state agencies have spent to affect legislative action and reports of expenditures for lobbying activities filed by the organizations that employ lobbyists.

Sincerely,

ROTH JUDD
Director

**REFERRALS AND RECEIPT OF
COMMITTEE REPORTS CONCERNING
PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

Senate Clearinghouse Rule 98-138

Relating to eligibility criteria for children with disabilities.

Submitted by Department of Public Instruction.

Report received from Agency, July 11, 2000.

Referred to committee on **Education**, July 12, 2000.

Senate Clearinghouse Rule 99-122

Relating to the design and construction of public swimming pools.

Submitted by Department of Commerce.

Report received from Agency, July 12, 2000.

Referred to committee on **Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations**, July 12, 2000.

Senate Clearinghouse Rule 99-123

Relating to the state uniform plumbing code.

Submitted by Department of Commerce.

Report received from Agency, July 10, 2000.

Referred to committee on **Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations**, July 12, 2000.

Senate Clearinghouse Rule 99-168

Relating to animal diseases, animal movement and livestock markets, dealers and truckers.

Submitted by Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Report received from Agency, July 5, 2000.

Referred to committee on **Agriculture, Environmental Resources and Campaign Finance Reform**, July 12, 2000.

Senate Clearinghouse Rule 00-094

Relating to authorized special groups.

Submitted by Department of Transportation.

Report received from Agency, July 11, 2000.

Referred to committee on **Insurance, Tourism, Transportation and Corrections**, July 12, 2000.

The committee on **Agriculture, Environmental Resources and Campaign Finance Reform** reports and recommends:

Senate Clearinghouse Rule 00-031

Relating to hunting, trapping and captive wildlife.

No action taken.

Alice Clausing
Chairperson

The committee on **Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations** reports and recommends:

Senate Clearinghouse Rule 00-038

Relating to anhydrous ammonia.

No action taken.

Senate Clearinghouse Rule 00-063

Relating to the distribution of arts challenge initiative incentive grant funds.

No action taken.

Senate Clearinghouse Rule 00-071

Relating to the identification of a topic of a lobbying communication.

No action taken.

Robert Wirch
Chairperson