

AB 800

STATE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION

4510 REGENT STREET MADISON, WISCONSIN 53705 (608) 233-4696

March 6, 2000

Senator Robert Wirch, Cochairperson, JSCRS
Representative Daniel Vrakas, Cochairperson, JSCRS
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Sen. Wirch and Rep. Vrakas,

The State Engineering Association has very strong reservations about enacting AB 800-SB 412 based on the likely negative impact these bill may have on the Wisconsin Retirement System.

The major proposed AB 800 change to s. 13.093 (2) (a), State Stats., is to delete the requirement: "The joint survey committee on retirement systems shall prepare the fiscal estimate with respect the provisions of any bill referred to it which created or modify any system for the retirement of or payment of pensions to public officers or employes."

We strongly object to the above change and deletion of this statutory requirement of Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems. The State Engineering Association asks what will replace the current independent authority to objectively evaluate fiscal aspects of legislative bills affecting the Wisconsin Retirement System?

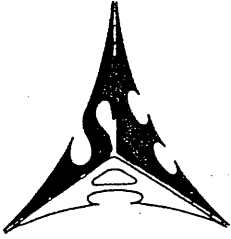
The current system works, so why replace it? If it must be changed, give the director and the Joint Survey Committee stronger authority to be politically detached, rather than eliminate the director position and office as AB 800 proposes. If this bill goes forward an amendment is needed to assure that the continuity of both the staff and the work of the Joint Survey Committee office will be preserved.

The integrity of the Wisconsin Retirement System must be adequately protected by law. We do not want the security of the system dependent on the good will of the legislature. It must be secured by statute because as state employees our daily lives and fiscal well being dependent on it.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Miller, President
STATE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION

Attached December 16, 1999 letters to the Cochairs expressing the same concerns.



STATE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION

4510 REGENT STREET

MADISON, WISCONSIN 53705

(608) 233-4696

December 16, 1999

Senator Robert Wirch, Co-chair
Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems
P. O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Wirch:

The State Engineering Association has for many years had the same goal you have to maintain and preserve the integrity of the Wisconsin Retirement System. This system, as presently structured, has functioned very well since 1948 and has become the ninth largest system in the country.

On this basis, we question the efforts to reduce the effectiveness of the JSCRS and the Retirement Research Committee by placing the administration within one of the existing legislative bureaus as proposed by the Co-chairs' memo dated November 24, 1999.

Our major concerns are as follows:

- . We see the primary functions of JSCRS and retirement research lost in the existing important functions of the four existing legislative agencies.
- . We also note the lack of public comment by the current legislative procedure to act on bill drafts and freezing out public comment, or printing the numbered bill one day prior to the public hearing scheduled the same day the bill was printed. Please note the attached Capital Eye opinion article.
- . This proposed change would destroy the independence of the JSCRS and the RRC and reduce their effectiveness by burying the retirement functions in one of the existing legislative bureaus.
- . We are very concerned why the Retirement Research Committee has not met or functioned since September of 1996.

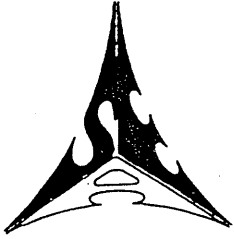
Senator Robert Wirch, Co-chair
Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems
Page 2
December 16, 1999

We trust that with your wisdom the integrity of the Wisconsin Retirement System, which has served public employers, active and retired public employees and Wisconsin taxpayers so well, can be preserved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Miller". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below a horizontal line that extends to the left.

Thomas H. Miller, President
STATE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION



STATE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION

4510 REGENT STREET

MADISON, WISCONSIN 53705

(608) 233-4696

December 16, 1999

Representative Daniel Vrakas, Co-chair
Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems
P. O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-7882

Dear Representative Vrakas:

The State Engineering Association has for many years had the same goal you have to maintain and preserve the integrity of the Wisconsin Retirement System. This system, as presently structured, has functioned very well since 1948 and has become the ninth largest system in the country.

On this basis, we question the efforts to reduce the effectiveness of the JSCRS and the Retirement Research Committee by placing the administration within one of the existing legislative bureaus as proposed by the Co-chairs' memo dated November 24, 1999.

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Representative Daniel Vrakas, Co-chair
Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems
Page 2
December 16, 1999

We trust that with your wisdom the integrity of the Wisconsin Retirement System, which has served public employers, active and retired public employes and Wisconsin taxpayers so well, can be preserved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Miller". A horizontal line is drawn above the signature.

Thomas H. Miller, President
STATE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION



WISCONSIN
RETIRED
EDUCATORS'
ASSOCIATION

Testimony of
THE WISCONSIN RETIRED EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION (WREA)
Hal Rebholz, WREA Legislative Chair
Jane Elmer, WREA Executive Director
Economic Development, Housing and Government Relations
Monday, March 6, 2000
417 North

RE: Opposition to AB 800/SB 412

(The elimination of the authority of the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems (JSCRS) to employ a research director and staff; elimination of the requirement to prepare an estimate for any bill referred to it that creates or modifies any retirement system for public employees.)

We are testifying on behalf of the Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association (WREA) and our 11,500 members to express our opposition to AB 800/SB 412.

Retirement research is complex, and any change to the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) needs careful, complete and INDEPENDENT review. We support the current system of employing a director and staff for the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems (JSCRS). This maintains the independence of the JSCRS and the Retirement Research Committee (RRC).

As they were designed, the combined work of the JSCRS and the RRC provide for a thorough and impartial study of retirement issues. This process needs to happen apart from the politics that can embroil the legislature. Maintaining this independence is not only a good practice but also a responsible one.

To be without a director of the RRC and the JSCRS at this critical time is unfortunate. Rather than taking a quick way out by combining the work of the RRC and JSCRS into the work of the Legislative Council, we support hiring a new director who has a strong focus on public policy. We believe that the hiring a new director should be a top priority.

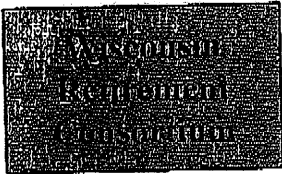
Our position has always been that retirement bills must have a thorough review that includes public hearings and financial analysis. To eliminate the requirement for fiscal estimates is irresponsible.

In Wisconsin, we have one of the best--if not THE BEST--retirement systems in the country. WREA views AB800/SB 412 as risking the future of the WRS. Approving AB 800/SB 412 might solve the immediate problem of what to do with the committee, but ultimately this "one step forward would be two steps back."

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Middleton, WI 53562
phone: 608.831.5115
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JE/ap
h:\word\legislat\rrcjscrs.tsy
03/02/2000

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages ▶
To	<i>Both</i>	From	
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	
Fax #	<i>267-0984</i>	Fax #	



TO: Consortium Members
 FROM: Mel Sensenbrenner
 DATE: February 28, 2000
 RE: LEGISLATIVE ALERT

SB 412/AB 800

These two companion bills were introduced last week by Co-Chairs Senator Wirch and Representative Vrakas to change the administration of the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems and the Retirement Research Committee. I have enclosed an analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau for your review. *I would highly recommend that everyone attend the hearing scheduled for March 6, 2000, at 11:00 a.m. in room 417 North, at the Capitol and express your opposition.*

This bill eliminates the research director and staff. Then requires the Legislative Council to provide staff to assist JSCRS and RRC. There appears to be no provision for public hearings on retirement bills and the retirement committee may no longer operate independently from the Legislative Council.

MS:jen

Ask Sensesbrennes

-- Did they
take a

position



Laura D. Rose
Interim Director

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One East Main Street
P.O. Box 2536
Madison, WI 53701-2536
(608) 266-1304
FAX (608) 266-3830
leg.council@legis.state.wi.us

***Testimony of Laura D. Rose, Interim Director, Wisconsin Legislative Council Staff
on 1999 Assembly Bill 800***

***Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems
Monday, March 6, 2000***

On behalf of the Legislative Council Staff, I am submitting this testimony, for information only, regarding 1999 Assembly Bill 800.

Assembly Bill 800 eliminates the authority of the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems (JSCRS) to employ a research director and staff and, instead, requires the Legislative Council to provide staff to assist JSCRS and the Retirement Research Committee (RRC) in the performance of their functions. JSCRS Cochairpersons Wirch and Vrakas introduced this bill after their review of proposals submitted by legislative service agencies relating to staffing the JSCRS. The Legislative Council Staff proposal was submitted to the cochairpersons in December 1999.

Although I am not taking a position either for or against the bill, having the Legislative Council Staff provide these staff services to the JSCRS and the RRC fits well within our agency's current functions. In fact, the Legislative Council Staff is currently providing staff services to the JSCRS on an interim basis and has performed other functions needed by JSCRS in the past. I would like to emphasize that the bill does not change any of the functions of the JSCRS or the RRC. Rather, it changes the pattern by which these committees have been staffed.

The Legislative Council Staff is a suitable agency to serve the JSCRS and the RRC. The Council Staff is the primary legislative service agency responsible for staffing legislative committees and has extensive experience in staffing standing, statutory and study committees. The Council Staff provides nonpartisan staff to all standing committees in each house, most of the statutory joint committees (e.g., the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions, the Joint Committee on Information Policy, the Joint Committee on Employment Relations, the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules and the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization) and all of the Joint Legislative Council study committees.

The primary functions of the Retirement Research Director--identification of bills and amendments containing retirement provisions, bill analysis, policy analysis and research--are ones carried out by Legislative Council Staff for other committees. Also, Legislative Council Staff members are experienced in preparing the formal reports on legislation required of other joint committees: members of the Council Staff currently prepare such reports for the Joint Survey

Committee on Tax Exemptions and, in the past, have prepared such reports for the Joint Survey Committee on Debt Management.

In addition to staffing JSCRS, the Council Staff can reliably perform the staff work for the Retirement Research Committee. The primary duties of that committee (which, as a practical matter, are performed by staff) are the establishment and maintenance of a current library of public employe pension and retirement plans throughout the United States and the submission to the Legislature of a report on public employe retirement systems. Historically, the report has taken the form of a comparison of major statewide public employe retirement systems across the country with the public employe retirement systems in Wisconsin. This report has been submitted to the Legislature approximately every two years. The Legislative Council Staff has extensive experience in obtaining, analyzing and summarizing information obtained from other entities and states and preparing comparative reports for the Legislature and its committees. Our staff frequently does comparative analyses of other states' laws and Wisconsin's for interim study committees and standing committees.

The person from the Legislative Council Staff assigned to work with the retirement committees would identify bills and amendments containing retirement provisions, perform bill analysis, policy analysis and research for the JSCRS and prepare the required JSCRS reports for the committee's action. This person would also maintain the library of public employe pension and retirement plans and prepare the report on public employe retirement systems required of the Retirement Research Committee. By integrating the retirement staffing function into the Legislative Council Staff, staffing depth would be provided to the JSCRS by calling upon the resources and expertise of other members of the Legislative Council Staff, as appropriate. Other persons on the Legislative Council Staff would be available to assist, as appropriate and would be available as backup staff to the JSCRS.

The Legislative Council Staff would not perform actuarial studies or render actuarial opinions. The current authorization to the JSCRS to contract for actuarial and technical assistance, and the current authorization to the Cochairpersons of the JSCRS, the Cochairpersons of the Joint Finance Committee and the presiding officers of either house to order an independent actuarial opinion on the impact of a bill or amendment, would be retained. The Legislative Council Staff would administer the appropriation for those studies and make payments on the contracts, as currently is done by the Retirement Research staff. This bill provides an appropriation of \$15,000 general purpose revenue (GPR) for this purpose (the same amount provided under current law).

The bill also provides funding for a currently unfunded vacant position in the amount of \$47,500 GPR, and one-time costs for office furniture and other equipment of \$2,000.

The current annual appropriation for the operations of the Retirement Research Director's office is \$212,800 for fiscal year 2000-2001. Thus, the net fiscal effect of assigning this function to the Legislative Council Staff would be annual savings of approximately \$165,300 GPR (excluding one-time costs for furniture and equipment).


Finally, I would like to address the issue of accessibility of the Council Staff to the persons interested in the work of both the RRC and the JSCRS. All of our staff work directly with legislators, legislative staff, agency representatives and various members of the public on a daily basis. The Council Staff will continue to provide the same level of access to the public with regard to the work of these committees as has been provided in the past.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions regarding this proposal.

LR:ksm:wu;ksm

33 NOB HILL DRIVE
MADISON, WI 53713-2198

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WISCONSIN
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL


Wisconsin
Federation of
Teachers

1334 APPLGATE ROAD
MADISON, WI 53713-3184

(608) 277-7700 • 1-800-362-7390
FAX: (608) 277-7708

March 6, 2000

To: Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems

From: Ken Opin, WFT Lobbyist
Representing WEAC and WFT

RE: Support for AB800, if amended

Legislative testimony

WFT and WEAC sill support AB800 if it is amended to insure that the remaining staff person for JSCRS is able to continue in the classified service in a comparable position.

We are concerned that the new staffing arrangement using the Legislative Council continue to carry out functions that are no longer enumerated in statute: carrying out the biennial survey of public retirement systems: and providing reports on retirement bills and amendments.

The Retirement Research Committee has been inactive for several years. We hope that the new staffing pattern will revitalize the critical research function the RRC provided, not eliminate it.

When Blair Testin was the research director, he served another critical function: that of the trusted neutral expert. When Blair spoke, we listened. Arguments between parties that would have gone on endlessly could be quickly resolved because Blair understood the retirement system better than any of us, and we all trusted his neutrality. All of us concerned about the Wisconsin Retirement System need to have that function filled again. If AB800 provides it, then WEAC and WFT will support it. Our concerns are about outcome, not process.



FISCAL ESTIMATE
DOA-2048 N(R10/98)

- ORIGINAL
- CORRECTED
- UPDATED
- SUPPLEMENTAL

Subject Relating to staff support for the joint survey committee on retirement systems and the retirement research committee and making an appropriation

Fiscal Effect

State: No State Fiscal Effect

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation.

Increase Costs - May be possible to Absorb Within Agency's Budget Yes No

- Increase Existing Appropriation
- Decrease Existing Appropriation
- Create New Appropriation
- Increase Existing Revenues
- Decrease Existing Revenues

Decrease Costs

Local: No local government costs

- 1. Increase Costs
 - Permissive
 - Mandatory
- 2. Decrease Costs
 - Permissive
 - Mandatory

- 3. Increase Revenues
 - Permissive
 - Mandatory
- 4. Decrease Revenues
 - Permissive
 - Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:
- Towns
 - Villages
 - Cities
 - Counties
 - Others _____
 - School Districts
 - WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected

- GPR
- FED
- PRO
- PRS
- SEG
- SEG-S

Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations

20.765 (3) (e); 20.765 (3) (ec)

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

1. Assembly Bill 800 would require the Legislative Council Staff (the staff for the Joint Legislative Council) to provide staff services for the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems and the Retirement Research Committee. The Legislative Council would also be required to administer a new appropriation under which payment will be made for actuarial studies and opinions and technical assistance as authorized by the Cochairpersons of the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems, the Cochairpersons of the Joint Committee on Finance and the presiding officers of either house.
2. It is anticipated that staffing needs of the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems and the Retirement Research Committee would require the services of 1.0 FTE staff person, at an annual cost of \$47,500 for salary and fringe benefits. It would also require start-up costs for furniture and other equipment for the position of \$2,000, for a total of \$49,500.
3. In addition, a new appropriation of \$15,000 would be created for the Joint Legislative Council for actuarial studies contracted and approved by the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems or the Retirement Research Committee for actuarial opinions ordered under s. 13.50 (6) (am), Stats. The current annual appropriation of \$15,000 for the Retirement Research Director's office for these studies and opinions would be eliminated.
4. Other costs relating to support staff and to administering the appropriation for actuarial studies associated with the staffing function would be absorbed by the Joint Legislative Council's appropriation.

(over)


Long-Range Fiscal Implications

None known

Agency/Prepared by: (Name & Phone No.)

Legislative Council Staff
Laura D. Rose 266-1304
and Pat Coakley

Authorized Signature/Telephone No.


Laura D. Rose 266-9791

Date

Feb 29, 2000

5. The current annual appropriation for the operations of the Retirement Research Director's office is \$212,800 for fiscal year 2000-01. Thus, the net fiscal effect of assigning this function to the Legislative Council Staff would be an annual savings of \$165,300 GPR (excluding one-time costs for furniture and equipment).

FISCAL ESTIMATE WORKSHEET

1999 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect DOA-2047 (R10/94)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL	<input type="checkbox"/> UPDATED	LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No. A.B. 800	Amendment No.
	<input type="checkbox"/> CORRECTED	<input type="checkbox"/> SUPPLEMENTAL		

Subject Relating to staff support for the joint survey committee on retirement systems and the retirement research committee and making an appropriation

I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):
 \$2,000

II. Annualized Costs:	Annualized Fiscal impact on State funds from:	
A. State Costs by Category	Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
State Operations – Salaries and Fringes	\$ 47,500	\$ -
(FTE Position Changes)	(FTE)	(- FTE)
State Operations – Other Costs	15,000	-
Local Assistance		-
Aids to Individuals or Organizations		-
TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$ 62,500	\$ -
B. State Costs by Source of Funds	Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
GPR	\$	\$ -
FED		-
PRO/PRS		-
SEG/SEG-S		-
III. State Revenues –	Increased Rev.	Decreased Rev.
Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)		
GPR Taxes	\$	\$ -
GPR Earned		-
FED		-
PRO/PRS		-
SEG/SEG-S		-
TOTAL State Revenues	\$	\$ -

NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>LOCAL</u>
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$ 62,500	\$ _____
NET CHANGE IN REVENUES	\$ _____	\$ _____

Agency/Prepared by: (Name & Phone No.) Legislative Council Staff/Laura D. Rose and Pat Coakley 266-1304	Authorized Signature/Telephone No. Laura D. Rose 266-9791	Date Feb 29, 2000
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STATE OF WISCONSIN

JOINT SURVEY COMMITTEE ON RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2000

11:00 A.M.

ROOM 417 NORTH (GAR), STATE CAPITOL BLDG.

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.
2. Consideration of the Minutes of the February 21, 2000 Meeting.
3. Senate Bill 365 relating to executive participating employe status under the Wisconsin retirement system for certain court commissioners. (Public Hearing)
4. Assembly Bill 800 relating to staff support for the joint survey committee on retirement systems and the retirement research committee and making an appropriation. (Public Hearing and Executive Session)
5. Senate Bill 97 relating to increasing the membership of the employe trust funds board. (Executive Session)
6. Assembly Bill 455 relating to establishing a presumption for employment-connected disease for state and county fire fighters. (Executive Session)
7. Senate Bill 142 relating to classifying county jailers as protective occupation participants for the purposes of the Wisconsin retirement system. (Executive Session)
8. Assembly Bill 48 relating to classifying county jailers as protective occupation participants for the purposes of the Wisconsin retirement system. (Executive Session)
9. Other Matters.
10. Adjournment.

- Ken @ pin - AB 800

- WFT - MEAC - Support

- AR 800 - Bob & Dan

- both chair other committees

Shila.

- no FE prepared, why has this been eliminated

- Council would continue to do this

- Gordon Skill part of

- Ed Keel - Coalition of Annuitants
SB 412 -

1

ISP - Invest Performance

dividen

- Opt. Ret. Program

ACT 11-

- We welcome & support changes

- that will improve the Fundation

- Notr. Comm on Uniform State Laws - objective Review

* Promote regular and continuous activity or RRA

- adequate input to leg. process

- slippery slope, lots of variable

2

- Strengths & limitations of process

- Lara Rose - Stella - current

Positive impact at council

- Makes open, accessible

What kind of assurance

Rose Ca. you gave for this -

Fits well w/ current formation - very open any one can come in @ any time

Franklin - designated to do only this -

Reser - first

is for staff WRCA & RRCA

- Approval of minutes

✓ Takes - approved

- Stella -

James Gruentzel -

- EIT elected another

Jensen - Leg. Council

not independent, why cant the

- be willing to sacrifice

from pension fund

- Gene Lehman -

- opposed - hire new director who has strong focus

- on public policy

- public hearings & financial advisors

(5)

- Risky - one step forward
2 steps back

- Jensen - what's
likely negative

- Osborne impact of this bill?

- Eliminates FF requirement

- Vratkas - full SD2 of bills
last time and not
have FE

- Osborne - do a study?

(6)

- Martin - new person
Council may take some
time - but when will
Gordon retire

- SB 97

- EFT abstaining

- not voting on AB 800

- Vira

- 8 ayes, 1 abstaining

- AB 455 - what it does

- Pres. created for municipalities

- cancer ACF 123

- extends to city & state
firefighters

- Vratkas, moved, which -

SB 365 -

(7)

- ~~SB~~ Status
- Exec part status
- Exp amendment makes it not retroactive
- Probate, civil, Family, juvenile criminal
- SC Order 97-10
- disciplines. etc. FS. Court Commissioners
- used to think they had job security order makes it clear they are appoint
- SB Rules require financial disclosure

(8)

- SB 345 - Gordon GE
- < How many ppl like more than 600 hours?
- For FTE's no problem,
- ~~SB~~ Dane Co has many court commissioners
- How many affected by 1/3 time?
- Stella - are there some not covered under this bill
- 4/3
- would affect ~~all~~ all eds and all who meet 600-hr test
- ~~Schneider~~ - Mary Beth Kappel.

- Stella - judges are elected

- ex ec. - you serve as
- Pleasure of

- annual evals.

- Stella - DA's are state emps paid by state

- DA's could have been in similar

- judges switched to state employees in 78

PRELIMINARY

1999-2000

LRB-4529/1

STATE OF WISCONSIN

APPENDIX TO 1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 800

REPORT OF JOINT SURVEY COMMITTEE ON RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

(Introduced by Representative Vrakas; cosponsored by Senator Wirch.)

An Act to repeal 20.765 (2); to amend 13.093 (2) (a), 13.50 (6) (am), 13.51 (1) and 20.765 (3) (e) (title); to repeal and recreate 13.50 (4); and to create 13.91 (1) (d) and 20.765 (3) (ec) of the statutes; relating to: staff support for the joint survey committee on retirement systems and the retirement research committee and making an appropriation.

EXTRACT OF COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION ON THIS BILL

The Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems finds that Assembly Bill 800 [represents good public policy, and the Committee recommends its passage] [does not represent good public policy, and the Committee does not recommend its passage].

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

Under current s. 13.50 (4), Stats., the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems (JSCRS) is required to employ a research director under the classified service and such staff as is required for the performance of its duties. The staff of the JSCRS also is required by s. 13.51 (1), Stats., to assist the Retirement Research Committee in the performance of its functions.

The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the authority of JSCRS to employ a research director and staff and, instead, require the Legislative Council Staff under s. 13.91, Stats., to provide staff to assist the committee in the performance of its functions. It provides that the JSCRS may contract for actuarial and technical assistance outside of the civil service (a similar provision is contained in current law).

The bill eliminates the requirement that the JSCRS prepare a fiscal estimate with respect to the provisions of any bill referred to it which makes a provision for the retirement of, or payment of pensions to, public officers or employees. Under s. 13.50 (6), Stats., which is not affected by the bill, the JSCRS report is required to contain information on the probable costs of the bill, as well as its effect on the actuarial soundness of the Wisconsin Retirement System of any such proposal.

The appropriation for actuarial services under s. 20.765 (2) (ab), Stats., is placed under the Joint Legislative Council as a separate appropriation for actuarial studies contracted and approved by the JSCRS, the Retirement Research Committee and for actuarial opinions ordered by the presiding officer of either house of the Legislature, or the cochairpersons of the Joint Committee on Finance.

The bill provides that all records of the staff of the JSCRS and the Retirement Research Committee will be transferred to the staff of the Joint Legislative Council.

The bill repeals the appropriation for the JSCRS staff in fiscal year 2000-01, and increases the appropriation to the Joint Legislative Council for fiscal year 2000-01, for the purpose of providing staff to assist the JSCRS and the Retirement Research Committee.

The bill would take effect on July 1, 2000.

ACTUARIAL EFFECT

The bill will have no actuarial effect on the Wisconsin Retirement System.

PROBABLE COSTS

The bill repeals the current appropriation of \$212,800 for staff for the JSCRS for fiscal year 2000-01. It increases the appropriation to the Joint Legislative Council by \$47,500 for the purposes of providing staff to JSCRS and \$2,000 for one-time start up costs. Therefore, the proposal would result in a net savings of approximately \$163,300 for fiscal year 2000-01. Annual savings thereafter should be approximately \$165,300.

PUBLIC POLICY

The JSCRS has three positions, a director and two support staff positions. These positions are in the classified civil service. The staff is employed by the JSCRS and functions under the direction and supervision of the cochairpersons of the JSCRS.

The bill transfers these staff functions to the Legislative Council Staff under s. 13.91, Stats., which currently provides staff to standing committees of the Legislature, as well as to the Joint Committee on Employment Relations, the Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology, the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions, the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules and the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization. The staff is required to be strictly nonpartisan.

The bill provides a separate biennial appropriation of \$15,000 in each fiscal year that will be used to pay for actuarial evaluations of proposals when directed by the JSCRS, the Retirement Research Committee, the presiding officer of either house of the Legislature or either of the cochairpersons of the Joint Committee on Finance.

RECOMMENDATION

The Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems finds that 1999 Assembly Bill 800 [represents good public policy, and the Committee recommends its passage] [does not represent good public policy, and the Committee does not recommend its passage].

3/6/00