

2007 DRAFTING REQUEST

Bill

Received: 01/17/2008

Received By: rchampag

Wanted: Soon

Identical to LRB:

For: Kathleen Vinehout (608) 266-8546

By/Representing: Kathie (Musser's office)

This file may be shown to any legislator: NO

Drafter: rchampag

May Contact:

Addl. Drafters:

Subject: Employ Pub - retirement

Extra Copies:

Submit via email: YES

Requester's email: Sen.Vinehout@legis.wisconsin.gov

Carbon copy (CC:) to:

Pre Topic:

No specific pre topic given

Topic:

Employer election for WRS participation

Instructions:

See Attached

Drafting History:

<u>Vers.</u>	<u>Drafted</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>	<u>Typed</u>	<u>Proofed</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Jacketed</u>	<u>Required</u>
/?				_____			S&L Retire
/1	rchampag 01/21/2008	jdyer 01/22/2008	rschluet 01/22/2008	_____	cduerst 01/22/2008	cduerst 01/22/2008	

FE Sent For:

*at intro
2/6*

<END>

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For: **Kathleen Vinehout (608) 266-8546** By/Representing: **Kathie (Musser's office)**

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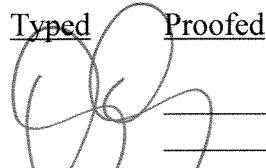
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rchampag

1/22/08



FE Sent For:

1/22/08

<END>

Champagne, Rick

From: Musser, Terry
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2008 8:16 AM
To: Champagne, Rick
Cc: Kleinschmidt, Linda
Subject: Draft Request -- WRS Eligibility

Rick,

Rep Musser and Sen Vinehout would like to have companion drafts regarding creating a second window during the year to obtain WRS eligibility.

I believe John Reinemann, WI Counties, has spoken with you about this.

Please draft it for Terry, and Linda Kleinschmidt from Sen Vinehout's office will

OK a senate version too, I think.

Rep Musser would like to give permission for you and John Reinemann to speak further about these drafts.

Please let me know if you need more information.

Thanks!

Kathie @ Rep Musser's Office

Barman, Mike

From: jreinemann [jreinemann@wicounties.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2008 3:27 PM
To: LRB.Legal
Subject: Message for Richard Champagne

Hi Rick. Thanks for taking my call earlier.

I've had a request from La Crosse County, who is acting on behalf of a consortium of adjacent counties to create a long-term care authority. This would be a new, quasi-government entity whose purpose would be running county nursing homes.

The creation of regional "long-term care districts" to operate Family Care programs is part of the recent budget. These districts are to be created by counties but operated independently of the counties.

One of the issues La Crosse County and the west-central consortium have run into concerns Wisconsin Retirement System participation for employees of the new authority.

All of the county boards of the participating counties in the west-central consortium have passed resolutions creating the District. However, the governing board for the new authority won't officially be in place until its membership is resolved, and then the board members of the new authority would have be approved.

The authority would like to begin employing county staff who transfer over the authority, in the third quarter or early fourth quarter of 2008. Here is where WRS enters the picture.

Under current law, the governing board of a public organization seeking WRS participation needs to submit a resolution requesting WRS eligibility by November 15 of a year in order to begin participation during the following year. The long-term care authority is just gearing up, and was not able to make this request last November.

The goal, of course, is to provide current county employees who would be transferring their employment to the new authority, continuous WRS coverage during and after the transfer. Without the guarantee of state retirement benefit continuation, I am told, massive bumping likely would ensue, creating havoc for everyone unless the authority delays implementation even longer (also not a good option).

Melissa Gilbert of La Crosse County has been the sparkplug on this. She tells me that she has talked to Rep. Musser and Sen. Vinehout, and they seemed willing to help with legislation if that is the needed approach.

In speaking with our WCA counsel, Andy Phillips of Phillips Centofanti and Stevens in Mequon, Melissa and I concluded that one possible solution might be to introduce a bill that allows a second window during the year (e.g. approve a resolution by May 15 in order to begin participation on July 1).

We'd like the legislation drafted broadly rather than narrowly. We know that other counties may be looking at taking steps similar to what the west-central group is doing, and we'd like the bill to be broad enough to help any future long-term care authority instead of just being aimed at the "La Crosse group." However, we do want to limit the bill to county-originated long-term-care authorities.

Since WCA no longer has direct drafting authority, Melissa will be touching base with the offices of Musser and Vinehout to see if they would still be willing to submit this request from their offices. I anticipate a speedy "yes" from them on that question.

Thanks Rick, we look forward to working with you on this draft.

John

John Reinemann, Legislative Director
Wisconsin Counties Association
608-663-7188
jreinemann@wicounties.org

Champagne, Rick

From: Kleinschmidt, Linda
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2008 12:48 PM
To: Champagne, Rick
Subject: FW: Draft Request -- WRS Eligibility

Hi Rick,

We are requesting a draft for us related to a concern raised by the West Central Consortium pertaining to the WRS and their ability to request participation.

As requested the draft would do the following:

We would like create a second window during the year to obtain WRS eligibility. Specifically, we would like to enable the governing board of a long-term care district to submit a resolution requesting WRS participation by May 15 of a year in order to gain eligibility July 1.

This would mirror current law, which states:

(1) Any employer shall be included within and thereafter subject to the provisions of the Wisconsin retirement system by so electing, through adoption of a resolution by the governing body of the employer. If the official notice of election to be included has been received by the department on or before November 15 the effective date of participation of the employer shall be the ensuing January 1. If the department receives the notice of election after November 15 the effective date shall be the January 1 after the ensuing January 1.

Rep. Musser is making the same request. Sen. Vinehout gives you permission to speak with John Reinemann regarding the draft. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Linda Kleinschmidt
Chief of Staff

Office of State Senator Kathleen Vinehout
104 South State Capitol - PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
608-266-8546
1-877-763-6636

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Thanks!

Kathie @ Rep Musser's Office



State of Wisconsin
2007 - 2008 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3875/1

RAC:A:...

soon

Jld

2007 BILL

- gm. cat

1 AN ACT ...; relating to: coverage of long-term care districts under the Wisconsin
2 Retirement System.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

* This bill provides that, if the governing body of a long-term care district adopts a resolution to elect to become a participating employer in the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) before May 15 of any year and official notice of that election is received by the Department of Employee Trust Funds (DETF) on or before May 15, the effective date of the participation of the long-term care district is the ensuing July 1. This differs from current law, which provides that, if an employer adopts a resolution to elect to become a participating employer in the WRS before November 15 of any year and official notice of that election is received by DETF on or before November 15, the effective date of the participation of the long-term care district is the ensuing January 1.

Because this bill relates to public employee retirement or pensions, it may be referred to the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems for a report to be printed as an appendix to the bill.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

Duerst, Christina

From: Lott, Hannah
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2008 1:05 PM
To: LRB.Legal
Subject: Draft Review: LRB 07-3875/1 Topic: Employer election for WRS participation

Please Jacket LRB 07-3875/1 for the SENATE.