



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

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2015 SENATE BILL 45

February 24, 2015 – Introduced by Senators HANSEN, HARRIS DODD, RINGHAND, MILLER, C. LARSON, VINEHOUT, WIRCH and RISSER, cosponsored by Representatives GENRICH, JORGENSEN, SARGENT, GOYKE, HEBL, SUBECK, JOHNSON, RIEMER, YOUNG, OHNSTAD, BILLINGS, C. TAYLOR, BOWEN, BERCEAU, SINICKI, ZEPNICK and WACHS. Referred to Committee on Labor and Government Reform.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* chapter 40 (title); and *to create* 15.07 (1) (a) 6., 15.165 (5),
2 20.515 (1) (k), 20.515 (2), 25.17 (1) (yu), 25.17 (2) (fm), 25.52 and subchapter X
3 of chapter 40 [precedes 40.99] of the statutes; **relating to:** creation of a private
4 retirement security plan and making appropriations.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law the Employee Trust Fund Board (ETF board) administers the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) under which public employees who are covered under the WRS and their employers pay contributions to the WRS and the WRS, from those contributions and the earnings on those contributions, provides retirement annuities to those public employees.

This bill creates a Wisconsin Private Retirement Security Board (board) and requires the board to establish a private retirement security plan (plan) to provide retirement benefits for residents of this state who choose to participate in the plan. Specifically, the bill requires the board to do all of the following:

1. Conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a plan. The feasibility study must estimate the potential population that is likely to choose to participate in the plan and the potential cost of implementing the plan and must recommend a design and structure for the plan that is most reasonable in light of that potential population and cost.

2. Hold public hearings to receive testimony relating to the feasibility study and the recommended design and structure of the plan. The board must hold not less than five public hearings and must hold those hearings over a period of not more than

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three months. The board may hold no more than one public hearing in Madison and must ensure that at one least one public hearing is held in each geographic area of the state, including the southeastern part of the state, the western part of the state, the northern part of the state, and the northeastern part of the state.

3. Based on the feasibility study, the recommended design and structure of the plan, and the testimony received at the public hearings, design the plan. The board must design the plan so that, to the greatest extent possible, the design and structure of the plan are reasonably commensurate with the design and structure of the WRS. In designing the plan, the board must provide for the State of Wisconsin Investment Board to assist the board in managing and investing the assets of the fund and the assets of the accounts of participants in the plan and must provide for the ETF board to assist the board in administering the plan.

4. By no later than the first day of the 18th month beginning after the effective date of the bill, submit a report to the legislature, the governor, and the members of the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) summarizing the conclusions of the feasibility study, the testimony received at the public hearings, and the design of the plan. The report must also include an estimate of the cost of initial establishment and administration of the plan, an estimate of the amount of time necessary to make the plan viable, and a recommendation for any legislation that is necessary to implement the plan. On enactment of that legislation, the board must implement the plan in accordance with that legislation.

In addition, the bill requires the Department of Employee Trust Funds to: 1) provide staff and other resources to assist the board in the performance of the board's duties under the bill; and 2) submit an estimate to JCF for supplemental funds from the general fund to be credited to the general purpose revenue (GPR) appropriation of the board created under the bill. The estimate must include the initial cost of establishing the board, conducting the feasibility study, holding the public hearings, designing the plan, and preparing and submitting the report. JCF must, from its GPR general program supplementation appropriation, supplement the GPR appropriation of the board in an amount equal to the estimate.

Finally, the bill permits the board to charge reasonable fees to participants in the plan to cover the costs of administering the plan, to recover the investment costs of the accounts of those participants, and to repay the general fund for amounts provided to the board for the costs of conducting the feasibility study, holding the public hearings, designing the plan, and preparing and submitting the report and for the costs of the initial establishment and administration of the plan.

For further information see the *state* 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:

1 **SECTION 1.** 15.07 (1) (a) 6. of the statutes is created to read:

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1 15.07 (1) (a) 6. The members of the Wisconsin private retirement security board
2 shall be appointed as provided in s. 15.165 (5).

3 **SECTION 2.** 15.165 (5) of the statutes is created to read:

4 15.165 (5) WISCONSIN PRIVATE RETIREMENT SECURITY BOARD. (a) There is created
5 in the department of employee trust funds a Wisconsin private retirement security
6 board consisting of the following members appointed for 5-year terms:

7 1. One member appointed by the employee trust funds board.

8 2. One member appointed by the investment board.

9 3. One member appointed by the agricultural education and workforce
10 development council.

11 4. One member appointed by the Wisconsin Women’s Business Initiative
12 Corporation.

13 5. One member appointed by the senate majority leader.

14 6. One member appointed by the senate minority leader.

15 7. One member appointed by the speaker of the assembly.

16 8. One member appointed by the assembly minority leader.

17 9. One member appointed by the governor.

18 (b) Not less than 5 of the members appointed under par. (a) shall have at least
19 10 years of experience in making investments, but any person having a financial
20 interest in, or whose employer is primarily a dealer or broker in, securities or
21 mortgage or real estate investments is not eligible for appointment, and any member
22 who acquires such an interest or accepts such appointment shall thereupon vacate
23 his or her membership.

24 **SECTION 3.** 20.515 (1) (k) of the statutes is created to read:

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1 20.515 (1) (k) *Assistance to Wisconsin private retirement security board.* All
2 moneys transferred from the appropriation account under sub. (2) (a) for the
3 activities of the department under s. 40.99 (3).

4 **SECTION 4.** 20.515 (2) of the statutes is created to read:

5 20.515 (2) PRIVATE RETIREMENT SECURITY PLAN. (a) *Initial costs.* A sum sufficient
6 to be transferred to the Wisconsin private retirement security plan administration
7 trust fund under s. 25.52 and expended for the activities of the Wisconsin private
8 retirement security board under s. 40.99 (2) (a) to (c) and for the initial establishment
9 and administration of the Wisconsin private retirement security plan under s. 40.99
10 (2) (d) and to be transferred to the appropriation account under sub. (1) (k) and
11 expended for the activities of the department under s. 40.99 (3).

12 (q) *Administrative expenses; Wisconsin private retirement security plan*
13 *administration trust fund.* From the Wisconsin private retirement security plan
14 administration trust fund, all moneys transferred to that fund under par. (a) for the
15 activities of the Wisconsin private retirement security board under s. 40.99 (2) (a) to
16 (c) and for the initial establishment and administration of the Wisconsin private
17 retirement security plan under s. 40.99 (2) (d), and all moneys deposited in that fund
18 under s. 40.99 (4) (b) for the administrative costs of the plan, for the investment costs
19 of accounts under that plan, and for repayment of the amounts appropriated under
20 par. (a).

21 **SECTION 5.** 25.17 (1) (yu) of the statutes is created to read:

22 25.17 (1) (yu) Wisconsin private retirement security plan administration trust
23 fund (s. 25.52), but subject to sub. (2) (fm).

24 **SECTION 6.** 25.17 (2) (fm) of the statutes is created to read:

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1 (c) “Plan” means the private retirement security plan established under this
2 section.

3 (2) DUTIES OF BOARD. The board shall:

4 (a) *Feasibility study.* Conduct a study to determine the feasibility of
5 establishing a private retirement security plan to provide retirement benefits for
6 residents of this state who choose to participate in the plan. The feasibility study
7 shall estimate the potential population that is likely to choose to participate in the
8 plan and the potential cost of implementing the plan and shall recommend a design
9 and structure for the plan that is most reasonable in light of that potential population
10 and cost. In conducting the feasibility study, the board may contract with actuarial
11 consultants and any other person whose services are necessary for the board to
12 conduct the feasibility study.

13 (b) *Public hearings.* Hold public hearings to receive testimony relating to the
14 feasibility study conducted, and the design and structure recommended, under par.

15 (a). The board shall hold not less than 5 public hearings under this paragraph and
16 shall hold those hearings over a period of not more than 3 months. The board may
17 hold no more than one public hearing under this paragraph in Madison and shall
18 ensure that at one least one public hearing under this paragraph is held in each
19 geographic area of the state, including the southeastern part of the state, the western
20 part of the state, the northern part of the state, and the northeastern part of the state.

21 (c) *Design of plan.* Based on the feasibility study conducted, and the design and
22 structure recommended, under par. (a) and the testimony received under par. (b),
23 design a private retirement security plan to provide retirement benefits for residents
24 of this state who choose to participate in the plan. The Wisconsin private retirement
25 security board shall design the plan so that, to the greatest extent possible, the

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1 design and structure of the plan are reasonably commensurate with the design and
2 structure of the Wisconsin Retirement System. In designing the plan, the Wisconsin
3 private retirement security board shall provide for the investment board to assist the
4 Wisconsin private retirement security board in managing and investing the assets
5 of the fund and the assets of the accounts of participants in the plan and shall provide
6 for the employee trust funds board to assist the Wisconsin private retirement
7 security board in administering the plan. In designing the plan, the Wisconsin
8 private retirement security board may contract with actuarial consultants and any
9 other person whose services are necessary for the Wisconsin private retirement
10 security board to design the plan.

11 (d) *Implementation of plan.* By no later than the first day of the 18th month
12 beginning after the effective date of this paragraph [LRB inserts date], submit a
13 report to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2), the governor, and the members of the
14 joint committee on finance summarizing the conclusions of the feasibility study
15 conducted under par. (a), the testimony received at the public hearings held under
16 par. (b), and the design of the plan under par. (c). The report shall also include an
17 estimate of the cost of initial establishment and administration of the plan, an
18 estimate of the amount of time necessary to make the plan viable, and a
19 recommendation for any legislation that is necessary to implement the plan. On
20 enactment of that legislation, the board shall implement the plan in accordance with
21 that legislation.

22 (3) DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT. (a) *Assistance to board.* From the appropriation
23 account under s. 20.515 (1) (k), the department shall be reimbursed for all of its costs
24 incurred in establishing the board and plan and for providing staff and other
25 resources to assist the board in the performance of the board's duties under sub. (2).

SENATE BILL 45**SECTION 9**

1 The department may not expend any moneys from the public employee trust fund
2 for its activities under this subsection.

3 (b) *Funding of initial costs.* The department shall submit an estimate to the
4 joint committee on finance of the initial cost of establishing the board, conducting the
5 feasibility study under sub. (2) (a), holding the public hearings under sub. (2) (b),
6 designing the plan under sub. (2) (c), and preparing and submitting the report under
7 sub. (2) (d). The joint committee on finance shall, from the appropriation under s.
8 20.865 (4) (a), supplement the appropriation under s. 20.515 (2) (a) in an amount
9 equal to the estimated amount.

10 (4) **REPAYMENT OF GENERAL FUND.** (a) The board may charge reasonable fees to
11 participants in the plan to cover the costs of administering the plan, to recover the
12 investment costs of the accounts of those participants, and to repay the general fund
13 for amounts transferred to the fund under s. 20.515 (2) (a) as provided in par. (b).

14 (b) A fee collected under par. (a) shall be deposited in the Wisconsin private
15 retirement security plan administration trust fund and credited to the appropriation
16 account under s. 20.515 (2) (q). From that appropriation, the board shall transfer to
17 the general fund an amount equal to the amount expended from the appropriation
18 under s. 20.515 (2) (a) when the board determines that the balance in the fund is
19 sufficient to make the transfer. The board may transfer that amount in installments.

20 (c) Annually, by June 1, the board shall submit a report to the joint committee
21 on finance on the amounts available for transfer under par. (b), the amounts
22 previously transferred under par. (b), and the outstanding balance that remains to
23 be transferred under par. (b).

24 **SECTION 10. Nonstatutory provisions.**

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1 (1) WISCONSIN PRIVATE RETIREMENT SECURITY BOARD; INITIAL TERMS.
2 Notwithstanding the length of terms for the members of the Wisconsin private
3 retirement security board specified in section 15.165 (5) (a) of the statutes, as created
4 by this act, the initial terms of the members appointed under section 15.165 (5) (a)
5 3. and 4. of the statutes, as created by this act, shall expire on May 1, 2019, the initial
6 terms of the members appointed under section 15.165 (5) (a) 5. and 6. of the statutes,
7 as created by this act, shall expire on May 1, 2018, the initial terms of the members
8 appointed under section 15.165 (5) (a) 7. and 8. of the statutes, as created by this act,
9 shall expire on May 1, 2017, and the initial term of the member appointed under
10 section 15.165 (5) (a) 9. of the statutes, as created by this act, shall expire on May 1,
11 2016.

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(END)