



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 2

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BUILDING WISCONSIN'S
WORKFORCE

FROM: Jessica L. Karls and Scott Grosz, Staff Attorneys

RE: Committee Recommendations to the Joint Legislative Council, as of December 2, 2008

DATE: December 2, 2008

This Memo is a list of recommendations of the Special Committee on Building Wisconsin's Workforce to the Joint Legislative Council, as of December 2, 2008. Some of the recommendations were approved by the committee at its November 19, 2008 meeting, while others are scheduled to be discussed at the committee's December 9, 2008 meeting. The committee's recommendations include: (1) legislative recommendations; (2) recommendations submitted to state agencies by letter; and (3) recommendations to be included in a committee statement to the Joint Legislative Council.

LEGISLATION

- WLC: 0283/1, relating to collection of workforce data in state-licensed nursing professions. *[Approved by the committee at its November 19, 2008 meeting on a vote of Ayes, 12; Noes, 0; and Absent, 1.]*
- WLC: 0126/2, relating to requiring an additional credit in mathematics for a high school diploma. *[On the agenda for the committee's December 9, 2008 meeting.]*
- WLC: 0353/P1, relating to lifelong learning accounts program. *[On the agenda for the committee's December 9, 2008 meeting.]*

LETTERS TO STATE AGENCIES

- Letter to Senator Jim Sullivan and Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz, Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Audit, from Chair Strachota and Vice Chair Wirch, on behalf of the Special Committee on Building Wisconsin's Workforce (November 19, 2008), requesting that the

Joint Committee on Audit direct the Legislative Audit Bureau to conduct an audit of the state's workforce development programs. *[Approved by the committee at its November 19, 2008 meeting on a vote of Ayes, 12; Noes, 0; and Absent, 1.]*

- Letter to Secretary Roberta Gassman, Department of Workforce Development (DWD), from Chair Strachota and Vice Chair Wirch, on behalf of the Special Committee on Building Wisconsin's Workforce (December 9, 2008), requesting that DWD address workforce shortages in the long-term care industry. *[On the agenda for the committee's December 9, 2008 meeting.]*
- Letter to Secretary Roberta Gassman, DWD, from Chair Strachota and Vice Chair Wirch, on behalf of the Special Committee on Building Wisconsin's Workforce (December 9, 2008), requesting that DWD use credentialing or certification programs as a means to address workforce needs. *[On the agenda for the committee's December 9, 2008 meeting.]*
- Letter to State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster, Department of Public Instruction (DPI), from Chair Strachota and Vice Chair Wirch, on behalf of the Special Committee on Building Wisconsin's Workforce (December 9, 2008), urging DPI to revise the state's model academic standards in mathematics to align the standards with the skills needed to fill occupations where workforce shortages exist; and to continue to approve equivalent course options to satisfy the mathematics credits required for a high school diploma. *[On the agenda for the committee's December 9, 2008 meeting.]*
- Letter to State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster, DPI, from Chair Strachota and Vice Chair Wirch, on behalf of the Special Committee on Building Wisconsin's Workforce (December 9, 2008), requesting that DPI continue to communicate with the University of Wisconsin (UW) System, Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), and independent colleges and universities in the state to develop ways to reduce the amount of remedial education needed for students who enter a college or university. *[On the agenda for the committee's December 9, 2008 meeting.]*
- Letters to President Kevin Reilly, UW System, and President Dan Clancy, WTCS, from Chair Strachota and Vice Chair Wirch, on behalf of the Special Committee on Building Wisconsin's Workforce (December 9, 2008), requesting that the UW System and WTCS continue efforts to increase the transferability of credits and the number of program-to-program transfer articulation agreements between institutions within their systems and with institutions outside their systems. *[On the agenda for the committee's December 9, 2008 meeting.]*

COMMITTEE STATEMENT TO JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

- Recommend that if the Legislative Audit Bureau is directed by the Joint Committee on Audit to conduct an audit of workforce development programs, the Joint Legislative Council reappoint a study committee after the audit is completed to address any issues raised in the audit. *[Approved by the committee at its November 19, 2008 meeting on a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 1; and Absent, 1.]*
- Recommend the development of more “bridge” programs in post-secondary education.