

WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Special Committee on Emergency Management and Continuity of Government

[2009 SENATE BILL 226 AND 2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 316;
2009 SENATE BILL 227 AND 2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 317;
2009 SENATE BILL 228 AND 2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 318;
2009 SENATE BILL 229 AND 2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 319;
2009 SENATE BILL 230 AND 2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 320;
2009 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 39 AND
2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 59]

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Special Committee on Emergency Management and Continuity of Government

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PART I

KEY PROVISIONS OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Joint Legislative Council introduced the following bills in the 2009-10 Session of the Legislature.

2009 Senate Bill 226 and 2009 Assembly Bill 316, Relating to Emergency Management, Succession of Public Offices, Liability and Licensure of Emergency Volunteers, Disaster Relief, Ratification of the Pest Control Compact, Transportation and Disposal of Animal Carcasses, the Plant Industry, Computation of School Days, Variance for Hospital Requirements, Public Works Mutual Assistance, Emergencies Related to Computer or Telecommunications Systems, and Providing Penalties

2009 Senate Bill 226 and 2009 Assembly Bill 316:

- Recodify ch. 166, which relates to emergency management, by moving the provisions into a new ch. 323, reorganizing the chapter, and modernizing language.
- Update the current statutes on liability for health care providers who volunteer during emergencies, by including health care providers who are not covered by the current statutes and by including certain volunteers who are credentialed in other states.
- Allow implementation of the pest control compact, revise statutes dealing with disposal of animal carcasses, and revise penalties for violation of statutes relating to the plant industry.
- Revise the statute on computation of school days to include days on which school is closed by order of the Department of Health Services (DHS) and days on which the school district administrator orders a school closed because of a threat to health or safety.
- Allow the secretary of DHS to grant a variance during a disaster to statutes and rules affecting hospitals.
- Provide for recognition of public works in statute relating to intergovernmental cooperation.
- Provide for inclusion of the Department of Administration (DOA) in statutes relating to emergency planning and response when an emergency relates to computer or telecommunications systems.

2009 Senate Bill 227 and 2009 Assembly Bill 317, Relating to Interim Successors for Legislators, Meetings of the Legislature and Legislative Committees, and Temporary Seat of Government for the Legislature

2009 Senate Bill 227 and 2009 Assembly Bill 317:

- Require legislators to designate emergency interim successors, who would assume office if a specified vacancy threshold is reached in a house of the Legislature.
- Allow a house of the Legislature and its committees to conduct a virtual meeting if certain conditions are met, during a time when legislators are prevented from physically meeting at the seat of government due to a disaster.

• Allow the Legislature to provide a process for designating an emergency temporary seat of government for the Legislature that is different from the emergency temporary seat of government designated by the Governor.

2009 Senate Joint Resolution 39 and 2009 Assembly Joint Resolution 59, Relating to Continuity of Government (First Consideration)

2009 Senate Joint Resolution 39 and 2009 Assembly Joint Resolution 59 amends the provision in the Wisconsin Constitution that requires the Legislature to provide for succession and continuity of government in periods of emergency "resulting from enemy action in the form of an attack" to eliminate that phrase and thereby require the Legislature to provide for succession and continuity in other emergencies.

2009 Senate Bill 228 and 2009 Assembly Bill 318, Relating to Disaster Assistance and Making an Appropriation

2009 Senate Bill 228 and 2009 Assembly Bill 318 provide \$1 million in general purpose revenues (GPR) in each year of the 2009-11 biennium to make payments under the state disaster assistance program.

2009 Senate Bill 229 and 2009 Assembly Bill 319, Relating to Regional Structural Collapse Teams and Granting Rule-Making Authority

2009 Senate Bill 229 and 2009 Assembly Bill 319:

- Put in place statutes governing regional teams established to respond to structural collapse emergencies.
- Direct the Division of Emergency Management to contract with local governmental agencies to establish no more than four regional teams.
- Provide that team members acting under a contract are state employees for workers compensation purposes and provides teams, team members, and local agencies that contract with the division with immunity from civil liability for acts or omissions relating to carrying out contract responsibilities.
- Specify circumstances in which the division will reimburse a team for expenses incurred in responding to a structural collapse emergency and the obligations of responsible parties.
- Direct the division to promulgate rules relating to identifying and determining the financial ability to pay of responsible parties.

2009 Senate Bill 230 and 2009 Assembly Bill 320, Relating to Creating an Exception to Local Levy Limits and the Expenditure Restraint Program

2009 Senate Bill 230 and 2009 Assembly Bill 320 amend the statutes relating to levy limits and the expenditure restraint program to provide an exception for unreimbursed expenses relating to an emergency declared by the Governor.

PART II COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Assignment

The Joint Legislative Council established the Special Committee on Emergency Management and Continuity of Government and appointed the chairperson by an April 9, 2008 mail ballot. The committee was directed to (1) conduct a recodification of ch. 166, Stats., relating to emergency management, to include reorganizing the chapter in a logical manner, renumbering and retitling sections, consolidating related provisions, modernizing language, resolving ambiguities in language, and making other necessary changes; (2) make recommendations on issues relating to continuity of legislative operations during emergencies, including but not limited to lines of succession, alternate seat of state government for the Legislature, suspension of legislative quorum requirements, and participation by legislators through alternative means from remote locations; and (3) review the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act for consideration and introduction in the next legislative biennium.

Membership of the Special Committee, appointed by a June 9, 2008 mail ballot, consisted of one Senator, three Representatives, and eight public members. A list of committee members is included as *Appendix 3* to this report.

Summary of Meetings

The Special Committee held six meetings on the following dates:

| July 30, 2008 | November 2, 2008 |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| September 10, 2008 | December 18, 2008 |
| October 1, 2008 | April 2, 2009 |

At the <u>July 30, 2008 meeting</u>, the Special Committee heard testimony from the following invited speakers:

- The Emergency Management System in Wisconsin: Johnnie Smith, Administrator, Division of Emergency Management, Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs (DMA) and member of the Special Committee.
- Public Health and Emergency Management: Tom Anderson, Emergency Coordinator, and Billie Bayou, Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry Coordinator, Wisconsin DHS.
- Continuity of Government Issues: Art Zoellner, Continuity of Government Director, Wisconsin DOA.
- Continuity of Legislative Operations: Robert Marchant, Senate Chief Clerk, and Patrick Fuller, Assembly Chief Clerk, Wisconsin Legislature.

The chair established a drafting subcommittee to recodify ch. 166, a subcommittee to recommend legislation relating to continuity of legislative operations, and an informal working group to review and make recommendations on the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act ("Uniform Act"). The two subcommittees and the working group met a number of times and reported their recommendations to the full committee.

At the <u>September 10, 2008 meeting</u>, the Special Committee heard testimony from the following invited speakers:

- State Disaster Assistance Program: Diane Kleiboer, Supervisor, Disaster Recovery Section, Division of Emergency Management, DMA; and Jennifer Lord-Kouraichi, Director, Clark County Emergency Management.
- Public Works Mutual Aid: Randi Milsap, Legal Counsel, DMA; and Christine Walsh, Operations Director, City of Beloit.
- Urban Search and Rescue: Randi Milsap, Legal Counsel, DMA; Ernesto Martinez, Battalion Chief, Madison Fire Department; and Gregg Cleveland, Chief, La Crosse Fire Department.
- HAZMAT Funding: Randi Milsap, Legal Counsel, DMA; and Gregg Cleveland, Chief, La Crosse Fire Department.

At the <u>October 1, 2008 meeting</u>, the Special Committee held a public hearing to receive testimony on issues relating to the committee's charge. The following people testified:

Larry Arft, City of Beloit; Bill Bazan, Wisconsin Hospital Association; Jay B. Behling, South Milwaukee Fire Department; David Callender and John Reinemann, Wisconsin Counties Association; Greg Engle and David Steingraber, Office of Justice Assistance; Joe Gehin, City of Wausau; Ed Geick, City of Baraboo; Ed Huck for John Wilmet, City of Fort Atkinson; Lawrie Kobza, Municipal Environmental Group, Water Division, Boardman Law Firm; Ron Krueger, City of Watertown; Ernie Martinez, Madison Fire Department; Dean C. Meyer, Ladysmith Police Department; Lonnie Muller, Wisconsin Towns Association and Town of Stark, Vernon, County; Dean Redman, City of Wauwatosa; Brian Satula, City of Oak Creek and MABAS-WI; Kathryn Schauf, Sauk City; Tom Sigmund, Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District; and John Somers, City of Beaver Dam.

At the <u>November 12, 2008 meeting</u>, the Special Committee discussed and approved legislation relating to continuity of legislative operations, including provisions on an emergency seat of government, emergency interim successors for legislators, a constitutional amendment on continuity of government, and virtual meetings of the Legislature. The committee also discussed policy options relating to the Uniform Act as well as Memo No. 1, *Issues for Consideration by the Special Committee*.

At the <u>December 18, 2008 meeting</u>, the Special Committee received a status report on the work of the drafting subcommittee and the working group reviewing the Uniform Act. The committee received testimony from Brian Litza, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Section, DHS, on the EMS system in Wisconsin. The committee approved draft legislation requested by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) relating to the pest control compact, the plant industry, and animal carcass disposal. The committee also approved legislation relating to: computation of school days; public works mutual aid; and the state disaster assistance program. The committee reviewed, but deferred final action on, a draft relating to exceptions to local levy limits and the expenditure restraint program.

At the <u>April 2, 2009</u> meeting, the Special Committee reviewed and gave final approval to draft legislation that incorporates: provisions to recodify ch. 166 into a new ch. 323, Stats., the language requested by DATCP; recommendations from by the working group on the Uniform Act relating to liability and licensure of emergency volunteers; and provisions relating to the disaster assistance program; computation of school days; hospital variances; public works mutual aid; and emergencies relating to computer or telecommunications systems.

This was the final meeting of the Special Committee.

PART III

RECOMMENDATIONS INTRODUCED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

This part of the report provides background information on, and a description of, the drafts as recommended by the Special Committee on Emergency Management and Continuity of Government for introduction in the 2009-10 Session of the Legislature and subsequently introduced by the Joint Legislative Council.

[Note: Each of the bills has been introduced in both houses as companion legislation.]

2009 Senate Bill 226 and 2009 Assembly Bill 316, Relating to Emergency Management, Succession of Public Offices, Liability and Licensure of Emergency Volunteers, Disaster Relief, Ratification of the Pest Control Compact, Transportation and Disposal of Animal Carcasses, the Plant Industry, Computation of School Days, Variance for Hospital Requirements, Public Works Mutual Assistance, Emergencies Related to Computer or Telecommunications Systems, and Providing Penalties

The Special Committee was directed to: (1) conduct a recodification of ch. 166, Stats., relating to emergency management, to include reorganizing the chapter in a logical manner, renumbering and retitling sections, consolidating related provisions, modernizing language, resolving ambiguities in language, and making other necessary changes; (2) make recommendations on issues relating to continuity of legislative operations during emergencies, including but not limited to lines of succession, alternate seat of state government for the Legislature, suspension of legislative quorum requirements, and participation by legislators through alternative means from remote locations; and (3) review the uniform emergency volunteer health practitioners act for consideration and introduction in the next legislative biennium.

Recodification of Chapter 166 of the Statutes

The bills do the following regarding the emergency management provisions of the statutes:

- Move the emergency management provisions of the statutes that are currently in ch. 166 to a newly created ch. 323.
- Reorganize the entire chapter by subdividing it into the eight subchapters shown in the table of contents set forth below. The current ch. 166 consists of 18 sections that are not organized into subchapters.
- Make nonsubstantive editorial changes to modernize language and make it consistent with current drafting style.
- Make minor changes in the chapter. These include the following:
 - Create a definition of the term disaster "a severe or prolonged, natural or humancaused, occurrence that threatens or negatively impacts life, health, property, infrastructure, the environment, the security of this state or a portion of this state, or critical systems, including computer, telecommunications, or agricultural systems."
 - Provide that an individual may not simultaneously serve as the head of emergency management for two or more counties.

• Specify that alleged violations on tribal land of the statutes relating to hazardous substances information may be enforced only by the Department of Justice.

Chapter 323, which will be entitled Emergency Management, will be organized as follows:

Subchapter I General Provisions

- 323.01 Declaration of policy.
- 323.02 Definitions.

Subchapter II

Powers and Duties Related to Emergency Management

- 323.10 Declaration by governor.
- 323.11 Declaration by local government.
- 323.12 Governor; duties and powers.
- 323.13 Adjutant general; duties and powers.
- 323.14 Local government; duties and powers.
- 323.15 Heads of emergency management; duties and powers.
- 323.16 Powers of law enforcement officers.
- 323.17 State traffic patrol officers and conservation wardens.
- 323.18 State agency volunteers.
- 323.19 State official authority to grant variances to statutes and rules for a disaster.
- 323.20 Emergency use of vehicles.
- 323.24 Prohibition against restricting firearms or ammunition during emergency.
- 323.25 Personnel restrictions.
- 323.28 Penalties.

Subchapter III Disaster Assistance Programs

- 323.30 Federal disaster assistance.
- 323.31 State disaster assistance.

Subchapter IV Liability and Exemptions

- 323.40 Responsibility for worker's compensation.
- 323.41 Liability of state or local unit of government.
- 323.42 Reimbursement of local units of government.
- 323.43 Bearing of losses.
- 323.44 Public shelters.
- 323.45 Providers of equipment and other items.

Subchapter V

Emergency Location and Continuity of Government

- 323.50 Definitions.
- 323.51 Emergency seat of state government.
- 323.52 Temporary locations of government for local units of government.

- 323.53 Succession to office; state officers.
- 323.54 Succession to office; local officers.
- 323.55 Interim successors.

Subchapter VI Emergency Planning

- 323.60 Hazardous substances information and emergency planning.
- 323.61 Emergency planning grants.

Subchapter VII Emergency Response Teams

- 323.70 Hazardous substance emergency response.
- 323.71 Local agency response and reimbursement.

Subchapter VIII Emergency Management Assistance Compact

323.80 Emergency management assistance compact.

Liability and Licensure of Volunteers

Under current law, certain health care providers who, during a declared state of emergency, provide services for which they are credentialed, are considered state agents of DHS for purposes of certain statutes related to lawsuits (notification to the state, legal representation by the state, limitation on damages, and payment of damages. They are also considered employees of the state for purposes of worker's compensation benefits. Those providers must have provided the services on behalf of a health care facility or mass clinic on a voluntary, unpaid basis, except that the provider may accept reimbursement for travel, lodging, and meals. In addition, current law provides that the health care facility on whose behalf the services are provided is, for the provision of those services, a state agent of DHS for purposes of the statutes related to litigation.

Current law provides that the persons covered by this statute are a behavioral health provider (psychologist, social worker, clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or professional counselor); health care provider (nurse aide, physician, physician assistant, podiatrist, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, nurse-midwife, dentist, pharmacist, veterinarian, or respiratory care practitioner); pupil services provider (school counselor, school psychologist, or school social worker); or substance abuse prevention provider (substance abuse counselor, clinical supervisor, or prevention specialist). In order for these persons to be covered by the current law, they must have been credentialed by the specified Wisconsin regulatory agency at any time within the 10 years before a state of emergency is declared.

The bills make the following changes in current law:

- The statutes described above, as modified by the bills, are moved to a new chapter of the statutes ch. 257, Stats., which will be entitled "Emergency Volunteer Health Care Practitioners."
- While current law covers persons credentialed by Wisconsin regulatory agencies, the bills also include persons who are credentialed by another state or territory that authorizes or qualifies the individual to perform acts that are substantially the same as those acts that an individual credentialed in Wisconsin may perform.
- The bills include several providers who are not covered by current law emergency medical technicians, first responders, funeral directors, and veterinary technicians.

- The bills require DHS to establish and maintain an electronic system to verify credentials of and register providers willing to volunteer during an emergency.
- The bills require that the provider must register in writing with the health care facility or mass clinic where he or she provides the services and be included in the DHS registry of providers willing to volunteer during an emergency.

Agricultural Issues

1. Pest Control

In the 1965-66 Legislative Session, the Legislature ratified the pest control compact. However, that ratification was made contingent on ratification of the compact by Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota. While Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota have ratified the compact, Iowa has not done so.

The bills eliminate the need for Iowa to ratify the pest control compact in order for Wisconsin's ratification to take effect. Therefore, if either bill is enacted into law, Wisconsin's ratification of the compact will take effect.

2. Animal Carcasses

Current law provides that a person may not deposit or throw into any specified body of water, or leave or deposit on any public highway or other place, the carcass of any animal. In addition, a dead animal may not be deposited or left on any premises under a person's control if it is exposed in such a manner that it could be reached by dogs or wild animals for a period longer than 24 hours in the months of April to November, or 48 hours in the months of December to March. No person is allowed to transport, haul, or drag along any highway the carcass of any animal suspected of having died from specified diseases or any other disease that DATCP designates as highly dangerous. Those carcasses are required to be burned or buried at least six feet below the surface of the ground and completely covered.

In addition, current law provides that any dead animal found on a public highway or other public place must, if the owner of the animal cannot be found, be buried or otherwise disposed of at public expense by the local health department in the jurisdiction where the animal is found. However, this does not apply if the county exercises its authority under a statute allowing the removal of dead animals or contracting for removal and burial or other disposition with a private rendering plant. If a county does not exercise its authority under that statute, the owner of the carcass must dispose of it as specified in current law.

The bills repeal current law and replace it with a statute that provides that no person may do either of the following, directly or through an employee or agent: (a) transport or dispose of a carcass that the person knows or reasonably should know to be a diseased carcass in a manner that creates a significant and foreseeable risk of transmitting disease to humans or animals; or (b) dispose of a carcass in the waters of the state (except that this does not prohibit the use of farm-raised fish as bait). The bills also provide that no person who owns or controls a carcass, or owns or controls the land on which a carcass is located, may leave the carcass exposed to access by dogs or wild animals for more than 24 hours during the months of April to November or for more than 48 hours during the months of December to March if the person knows or reasonably should know that the carcass is exposed. In addition, DATCP may regulate the transportation and disposal of carcasses to prevent and control contagious and infectious diseases.

For purposes of the above statute, the term "carcass" is defined as the dead body, or any part of the dead body, of a livestock animal or other domestic animal. The term "contagious or infectious disease" is defined as a disease that is spread by contact, bodily secretions, or fomites, or that is caused by a pathogenic agent. A "fomite" is defined as an inanimate object or a substance that transfers infectious organisms from one animal to another. Finally, the bills define "diseased carcass" as the carcass of a livestock animal or other domestic animal if the animal was any of the following at the time of death: (a) infected with a contagious or infectious disease; (b) potentially infected with such a

disease, based on known exposure to such a disease; or (c) reasonably suspected of being infected with such a disease, based on symptoms or testing.

3. Plant Industry

Current law provides that any person who violates any provision of ch. 94, Stats., for which a specific penalty is not prescribed must be fined not more than \$200 or imprisoned in the county jail for not more than six months, or both. Portions of ch. 94, Stats., for which no specific penalty is prescribed include provisions that deal with plant inspection and pest control, abatement of pests, inspection and licensing of nursery stock, and regulation of honeybees.

The bills increase the penalty to provide that any person who violates any provision of ch. 94, Stats., for which a specific penalty is not prescribed, or an order issued or rule promulgated under such a provision, may be fined not more than \$1,000 for the first offense and may be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than six months, or both for each subsequent offense. The bills also provide that in lieu of this criminal penalty, a person who violates any provision of this chapter for which a specific penalty is not prescribed, or an order issued or rule promulgated under such a provision, may be required to forfeit not less than \$200 nor more than \$5,000, or for an offense committed within five years of an offense for which a penalty has been assessed, may be required to forfeit not less than \$10,000.

In addition, the bills give DATCP the authority to seek an injunction restraining any person from violating ch. 94, Stats., or a rule promulgated under that chapter.

Computation of School Days

Current law provides that no state aid may be paid to a school district that fails to hold school for at least 180 days each year, with the days to be computed in accordance with s. 115.01 (10). That latter statute provides that school days are days on which school is actually taught and also include the following: (1) days on which school is closed by order of the school district administrator because of inclement weather and days on which parent-teacher conferences are held, not to exceed five days during the school term; and (2) days on which school is closed by order of a local health officer.

The bills also include days on which school is closed by order of the state DHS. In addition, they include days on which school is closed by order of the school district administrator because of a threat to the health or safety of pupils or school personnel (but not including inclement weather, which is covered by current law).

Hospital Variances

Current law provides that the Pharmacy Examining Board (PEB) or its designee may grant a variance to a requirement of ch. 450, Stats., which relates to regulation of pharmacists and pharmacies, or a rule promulgated by the PEB if all of the following conditions are met: (1) the PEB or designee determines that a natural or man-made disaster or emergency exists or has occurred; (2) the pharmacist has requested the variance; and (3) the PEB or designee determines that the variance is necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare. If a member of the PEB disagrees with a decision made by a designee, the chairperson of the PEB is required to call a meeting as soon as practicable to review the decision and the PEB may affirm or modify the designee's decision. A variance is for a stated term not to exceed 90 days, except that the PEB or designee may extend the variance upon request by a pharmacist if it determines that an extension is necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare.

The bills create a similar provision for the Secretary of DHS with respect to hospitals. Under the bills, the Secretary or his or her designee may grant a variance to a statute affecting hospitals or a rule of DHS affecting hospitals if all of the conditions are met: (1) the Secretary or designee determines that a disaster, as defined in the bills, has occurred; (2) a hospital has requested the variance; and (3) the Secretary or designee determines that the variance is necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare. A variance is for a stated term not to exceed 90 days, except that the secretary or designee may extend the variance upon request by the hospital if he or she determines that an extension is necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare.

Public Works Mutual Assistance

Currently, the Adjutant General is required to furnish guidance and establish standards for emergency management programs of local governments.

The bills require that standards for public works include a suggestion that local governments, or federally recognized American Indian tribes or bands, adopt the mutual assistance agreement created by the Division of Emergency Management for the intergovernmental collaboration of public works personnel, equipment, and resources during an emergency. The Adjutant General must consult with public works associations and organizations regarding the content of that agreement. The bills also define the term "public works."

Computer or Telecommunication Systems Emergencies

Current law allows the Governor to declare a state of emergency for the state or any portion of the state if he or she determines that certain emergencies or disasters exist. If the Governor determines that a public health emergency exists, he or she may declare a state of emergency related to public health and may designate DHS as the lead state agency to respond to that emergency. The bills provide that if the Governor determines that an emergency related to computer or telecommunication systems exists, he or she may designate DOA as the lead agency to respond to that emergency.

Current law provides that subject to approval by the Governor, the Adjutant General must develop and promulgate a state plan of emergency management for the security of persons and property. In developing the plan, the Adjutant General must seek the advice of DHS with respect to the emergency medical aspects of the plan. The bills require that the Adjutant General seek the advice of DOA with respect to aspects of the plan related to computer or telecommunication systems.

Current law requires the Adjutant General to prescribe and carry out statewide training programs and exercises. The Adjutant General is required to consult with DHS regarding the provision of incident command system training to local health department personnel. The bills require the Adjutant General to consult with DOA regarding the provision of incident command system training for emergencies related to computer or telecommunication systems.

2009 Senate Bill 227 and 2009 Assembly Bill 317, Relating to Interim Successors for Legislators, Meetings of the Legislature and Legislative Committees, and Temporary Seat of Government for the Legislature

The bills include provisions on: (1) emergency interim successors for legislators; (2) virtual meetings of the Legislature; and (3) emergency temporary locations for the Legislature.

Emergency Interim Successors

Current law provides a mechanism for appointment of emergency interim successors for the Governor and a variety of state and local officers. However, current law does not provide a mechanism for appointment of emergency interim successors for legislators.

The bills provide that a legislator, as soon as practicable after the Legislature convenes every two years, must file with the chief clerk for the legislator's house a list of not less than three nor more than seven emergency interim successors. The list is not subject to inspection or copying under the Open Records Law. If, during an emergency resulting from enemy action, there are more than nine vacancies in the Senate, or more than 25 vacancies in the Assembly, interim successors named in the list are to be appointed by the presiding officer or his or her designee in the house in which the threshold has been met to fill the vacancies. An interim emergency successor is required to exercise the powers and discharge the duties of the office until the vacancy is filled through an election or the emergency has ended. All votes taken by emergency interim successors are as valid as if taken by a legislator.

Under Article IV, Section 34, of the Wisconsin Constitution, the Legislature is required to provide for continuity of governmental operations in periods of emergency resulting from enemy action in the form of an attack. The Special Committee has recommended a constitutional amendment that requires the Legislature to ensure continuity in other types of emergencies. The bills provide that if such a constitutional amendment is ratified, the presiding officer shall appoint an interim successor whenever the requisite number of vacancies exists. [The constitutional amendment is described on page 14.]

Virtual Meetings

The bills would permit each house of the Legislature, pursuant to its rules or joint rules, to issue a notice that the house and its committees are prevented from physically meeting at the seat of government due to a disaster. If a notice is issued, the house and any committee of the house may conduct a virtual meeting and transact business using any means of communication by which all of the following occur: (1) the identity of each participating member is verified and the actions of each participating member are authenticated; (2) all participating members are able to simultaneously hear or read the comments of members recognized to speak; (3) any document that is used by a member and that is accepted by the presiding officer or chairperson is immediately transmitted to the other participating members; and (4) the public has the opportunity to monitor the proceedings, within technological limits. In order for a joint committee of the Legislature to hold a virtual meeting in the manner described above, each house would have to issue a notice of emergency. Exceptions to public notice of legislative proceedings or meetings and to public access are provided where the public welfare requires secrecy, as provided in Article IV, Section 10, of the Wisconsin Constitution.

Under the bills, a virtual meeting held in accordance with these requirements would be considered to have occurred at the seat of government and all actions taken at a virtual meeting would have the same legal effect as if the members were physically present at the seat of government. For purposes of determining the presence of a quorum to conduct business, any member participating in a virtual meeting would be considered present in the same manner as if physically present at the seat of government.

The bills provide that in presiding over a virtual meeting of a house of the Legislature, the presiding officer must interpret and apply all rules of proceeding of that house which presume the physical presence of members in the house's chambers at the seat of government, in a manner so as to accomplish the same purposes for which the rules were adopted. Finally, the bills state that the language authorizing virtual meetings does not limit the authority of either house to use teleconferencing for purposes of holding a committee meeting at the seat of government.

Emergency Temporary Locations

Under current law, whenever during a state of emergency it becomes imprudent, inexpedient, or impossible to conduct the affairs of state government at the state capital, the Governor is required to designate an emergency temporary location for the seat of government and to take such action and issue such orders as are necessary for an orderly transition of the affairs of state government to that location. While the seat of government remains at a temporary location, all official acts required by law to be performed at the seat of government are as valid and binding when performed at the temporary location as if performed at the normal location.

The bills allow the Legislature, by joint rule, to provide a process for designating an emergency temporary seat of government for the Legislature that is different than the location designated by the

Governor. Under the bills, whenever, as the result of a disaster or the imminent threat of a disaster, it becomes imprudent, inexpedient, or impossible to conduct the business of the Legislature at the state capital, the Legislature may meet either at the location designated by the Governor or the location designated by the Legislature itself. Information about this location is not subject to inspection or copying under the Open Records Law.

2009 Senate Joint Resolution 39 and 2009 Assembly Joint Resolution 59, Relating to Continuity of Government (First Consideration)

Article IV, Section 34, of the Wisconsin Constitution provides that the Legislature, to ensure continuity of state and local government operations in periods of emergency resulting from enemy attack, must provide for prompt and temporary succession to the powers and duties of public offices, of whatever nature and whether filled by election or appointment, the incumbents of which may be unavailable to carry on the powers and duties of the offices. In addition, the Legislature must adopt any other measures that may be necessary to obtain the objectives of that section of the constitution.

The joint resolutions amend that provision in article IV, section 34, of the Wisconsin Constitution to strike the phrase "resulting from enemy action in the form of an attack," thereby providing for legislative action to ensure continuity in periods of emergency, whether resulting from enemy attack or from other causes.

A constitutional amendment requires adoption of two successive Legislatures, and ratification by the people, before it can become effective.

2009 Senate Bill 228 and 2009 Assembly Bill 318, Relating to Disaster Assistance and Making an Appropriation

The bills provide \$1 million in GPR in each fiscal year of the 2009-11 biennium for the state disaster assistance program. The program provides payments to local governments for a portion of damages and costs incurred in a major catastrophe if federal disaster assistance is not available.

2009 Senate Bill 229 and 2009 Assembly Bill 319, Relating to Regional Structural Collapse Teams and Granting Rule-Making Authority

The bills put in place statutes governing regional teams established to respond to structural collapse emergencies. The bills direct the Division of Emergency Management to contract with local agencies to establish no more than four regional structural collapse teams. Team members must meet specified National Fire Protection Association standards. A team member who is acting under a contract is considered an employee of the state for purposes of worker's compensation benefits. Teams, team members, and the local agencies that contract with the division are immune from civil liability for acts or omissions related to carrying out contract responsibilities.

The bills specify circumstances in which the division will reimburse a team for costs incurred in responding to a structural collapse emergency, as well as the obligation of a person responsible for a structural collapse to reimburse the division. The bills direct the division to promulgate rules establishing standards to be used to determine whether a team has: (1) made a good faith effort to identify a person responsible for a structural collapse emergency; and (2) determined the financial ability of a responsible person to reimburse the team for expenses incurred in responding to the emergency.

2009 Senate Bill 230 and 2009 Assembly Bill 320, Relating to Creating an Exception to Local Levy Limits and the Expenditure Restraint Program

Under current levy limit statutes, which apply to the property tax levies that are imposed in December 2007 and 2008, a political subdivision (defined as a city, village, town, or county) may not increase its levy by a percentage that exceeds either the political subdivision's valuation factor, as calculated under current law, or a percentage specified in the statutes. Various exceptions are provided in current law to the requirement that political subdivisions not increase their levy by more than the specified percentage. The bills create an additional exception, under which the levy limit does not apply to the amount that a political subdivision levies to pay the unreimbursed expenses related to an emergency declared by the Governor, although currently no levy limits apply to a political subdivision's levy that is imposed after December 2008. The bills also specify that the amount excluded for this purpose may not be added to a political subdivision's base levy.

Under the current expenditure restraint program, certain municipalities qualify for payments from the state if their municipal budget does not exceed the municipal budget for the previous year by more than the sum of an inflation factor and a valuation factor, calculated as specified in current law. In determining the budget for the current year and the previous year, certain costs are excluded. The bills create an additional exclusion for unreimbursed expenses related to an emergency declared by the Governor.

Appendix 1

Committee and Joint Legislative Council Votes

The following drafts were recommended by the Special Committee on Emergency Management and Continuity of Government to the Joint Legislative Council for introduction in the 2009-10 Session of the Legislature.

Special Committee Vote

The Special Committee voted to recommend the following six drafts to the Joint Legislative Council for introduction in the 2009-10 Session of the Legislature. The vote on the drafts are as follows:

- LRB-0166/2, relating to emergency management, succession of public offices, liability and licensure of emergency volunteers, disaster relief, ratification of the pest control compact, transportation and disposal of animal carcasses, the plant industry, computation of school days, variance for hospital requirements, public works mutual assistance, emergencies related to computer or telecommunications systems, and providing penalties: Ayes, 11 (Senator Jauch; Representatives Ballweg, Kerkman, and Schneider; and Public Members Dalton, Hamedani, Hartje, Holton, Kesler, Ritger, and Roland); Noes, 0; and Absent, 1 (Public Member Smith).
- LRB-2345/1, relating to interim successors for legislators, meetings of the Legislature and legislative committees, and temporary seat of government for the Legislature, is a combination of three drafts that were approved by the Special Committee WLC:0163/1, WLC: 0123/1, and WLC: 0223/1, all of which were approved by the following vote: Ayes, 11 (Sen. Jauch; Reps. Ballweg, Kerkman, and Schneider; and Public Members Dalton, Hamedani, Hartje, Kesler, Ritger, Roland, and Smith); and Noes, 0.
- LRB-2572/1, relating to continuity of government (first consideration): Ayes, 11 (Sen. Jauch; Reps. Ballweg, Kerkman, and Schneider; and Public Members Dalton, Hamedani, Hartje, Kesler, Ritger, Roland, and Smith); and Noes, 0.
- LRB-2409/3, relating to disaster assistance and making an appropriation: Ayes, 11 (Senator Jauch; Representatives Ballweg, Kerkman, and Schneider; and Public Members Dalton, Hamedani, Hartje, Holton, Kesler, Ritger, and Roland); Noes, 0; and Absent, 1 (Public Member Smith).
- LRB-2230/1, relating to regional structural collapse teams and granting rule-making authority: Ayes, 11 (Senator Jauch; Representatives Ballweg, Kerkman, and Schneider; and Public Members Dalton, Hamedani, Hartje, Holton, Kesler, Ritger, and Roland); Noes, 0; and Absent, 1 (Public Member Smith).
- LRB-2553/3, relating to creating an exception to local levy limits and the expenditure restraint program: Ayes, 10 (Senator Jauch; Representatives Ballweg and Schneider; and Public Members Dalton, Hamedani, Hartje, Holton, Kesler, Ritger, and Roland); Noes, 1 (Representative Kerkman); and Absent, 1 (Public Member Smith).

Joint Legislative Council Vote

At its May 20, 2009 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council voted as follows on the recommendations of the Special Committee:

Co-Chair Risser moved, seconded by Co-Chair Schneider, that the following five drafts recommended by the Special Committee, be introduced by the Joint Legislative Council:

- 1. LRB-0166/2, relating to emergency management, succession of public offices, liability and licensure of emergency volunteers, disaster relief, ratification of the pest control compact, transportation and disposal of animal carcasses, the plant industry, computation of school days, variance for hospital requirements, public works mutual assistance, emergencies related to computer or telecommunications systems, and providing penalties.
- **2. LRB-2345/1**, relating to interim successors for legislators, meetings of the Legislature and legislative committees, and temporary seat of government for the Legislature.
- **3.** LRB-2572/1, relating to continuity of government (first consideration).
- **4. LRB-2409/3**, relating to disaster assistance and making an appropriation.
- **5. LRB-2230/1**, relating to regional structural collapse teams and granting rule-making authority.

The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes, 21 (Reps. Schneider, Ballweg, Black, Berceau, Fitzgerald, Kaufert, Nelson, Pocan, Sheridan, Staskunas, and Vos; and Sens. Risser, Coggs, Darling, Fitzgerald, Harsdorf, Kreitlow, Miller, Robson, Schultz, and Wirch); Noes, 0; and Absent, 1 (Sen. Decker).

Co-Chair Schneider moved, seconded by Co-Chair Risser, that **LRB-2553/3**, relating to creating an exception to local levy limits and the expenditure restraint program, be introduced by the Joint Legislative Council. The motion passed on a roll call vote of Ayes, 16 (Reps. Schneider, Ballweg, Black, Berceau, Nelson, Pocan, Sheridan, and Staskunas; and Sens. Risser, Coggs, Harsdorf, Kreitlow, Miller, Robson, Schultz, and Wirch); Noes, 5 (Reps. Fitzgerald, Kaufert, and Vos; and Sens. Darling and Fitzgerald); and Absent, 1 (Sen. Decker).

Appendix 2

Joint Legislative Council

[Joint Legislative Council Members Who Selected and Appointed the Committee and Its Membership]

<u>Co-Chair</u> FRED RISSER

Senate President 5008 Risser Road Madison, WI 53705

ROGER BRESKE

8800 Hwy. 29 Eland, WI 54427

TIM CARPENTER *President Pro Tempore*

2957 South 38th Street Milwaukee, WI 53215

SPENCER COGGS 3732 North 40th Street Milwaukee, WI 53216

ALBERTA DARLING 1325 West Dean Road River Hills, WI 53217

JOAN BALLWEG

170 W. Summit Street Markesan, WI 53946

JEFF FITZGERALD

Majority Leader 910 Sunset Horicon, WI 53032

MARK GOTTLIEB Speaker Pro Tempore

1205 Noridge Trail Port Washington, WI 53074

MICHAEL HUEBSCH

Speaker 419 West Franklin West Salem, WI 54669

SENATORS

RUSSELL DECKER Majority Leader 6803 Lora Lee Lane Weston, WI 54476

SCOTT FITZGERALD Minority Leader N4692 Maple Road Juneau, WI 53039

SHEILA HARSDORF N6627 County Road E River Falls, WI 54022

Co-Chair

STEVE WIECKERT *Representative* 1 Weatherstone Drive Appleton, WI 54914

ALAN LASEE 2259 Lasee Road De Pere, WI 54115

MARK MILLER 4903 Roigan Terrace Monona, WI 53716

JUDY ROBSON 2411 E. Ridge Road Beloit, WI 53511

REPRESENTATIVES

DEAN KAUFERT 1360 Alpine Lane Neenah, WI 54956

JIM KREUSER *Minority Leader* 3505 14th Place Kenosha, WI 53144

THOMAS NELSON 1510 Orchard Dr. Kaukauna, WI 54130 MARK POCAN

309 N. Baldwin Street Madison, WI 53703

KITTY RHOADES 708 4th Street Hudson, WI 54016

MARLIN SCHNEIDER 3820 Southbrook Lane

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

This 22-member committee consists of the majority and minority party leadership of both houses of the Legislature, the co-chairs and ranking minority members of the Joint Committee on Finance, and 5 Senators and 5 Representatives appointed as are members of standing committees.

Joint Legislative Council

[Current Joint Legislative Council Members Receiving the Committee Report]

<u>Co-Chair</u>

FRED A. RISSER

Senate President 100 Wisconsin Avenue, Unit 501 Madison, WI 53703

SPENCER COGGS

7819 W. Potomac Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53222

ALBERTA DARLING 1325 West Dean Road River Hills, WI 53217

RUSSELL DECKER

Majority Leader 6803 Lora Lee Lane Schofield, WI 54476

SCOTT FITZGERALD Minority Leader N4692 Maple Road Juneau, WI 53039

JOAN BALLWEG

170 W. Summit Street Markesan, WI 53946

TERESE BERCEAU

4326 Somerset Lane Madison, WI 53711

SPENCER BLACK 5742 Elder Place

Madison, WI 53705

JEFF FITZGERALD

Minority Leader 910 Sunset Horicon, WI 53032

SHEILA HARSDORF N6627 County Road E River Falls, WI 54022

SENATORS

PAT KREITLOW *President Pro Tempore* 15854 93rd Avenue Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

MARK MILLER 4903 Roigan Terrace Monona, WI 53716

<u>Co-Chair</u>

MARLIN D. SCHNEIDER Representative 3820 Southbrook Lane Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

JUDY ROBSON 2411 E. Ridge Road Beloit, WI 53511

DALE SCHULTZ 515 North Central Avenue Richland Center, WI 53581

ROBERT WIRCH 3007 Springbrook Road Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158

REPRESENTATIVES

DEAN KAUFERT 1360 Alpine Lane Neenah, WI 54956

THOMAS NELSON

Majority Leader 1510 Orchard Drive Kaukauna, WI 54130

MARK POCAN 309 N. Baldwin Street Madison, WI 53703

MICHAEL SHERIDAN

Speaker 1032 Nantucket Drive Janesville, WI 53546

TONY STASKUNAS Speaker Pro Tempore 2010 South 103rd Court West Allis, WI 53227

ROBIN VOS 4710 Eastwood Ridge Racine, WI 53406

This 22-member committee consists of the majority and minority party leadership of both houses of the Legislature, the co-chairs and ranking minority members of the Joint Committee on Finance, and 5 Senators and 5 Representatives appointed as are members of standing committees.

Appendix 3

Emergency Management and Continuity of Government

Senator Robert Jauch, **Chair** 5271 South Maple Drive Poplar, WI 54864

Representative Samantha Kerkman 40255 105th Street Genoa City, WI 53128

Gary Dalton American Red Cross – Southeastern Wisconsin 2656 Lefeber Avenue Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Ken Hartje Nekoosa Fire Department 1011 W 5th Street Nekoosa, WI 54457

Keith Kesler Douglas County Emergency Management 1316 North 14th Street, Suite 10 Superior, WI 54880

Dean Roland Burnett County Sheriff 7410 County Rd. K Siren, WI 54872 Representative Joan Ballweg, **Vice Chair** 170 W. Summit Street Markesan, WI 53946

Representative Marlin Schneider 3820 Southbrook Lane Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Dr. Azita Hamedani UW Hospital and Clinics 30 Kingswood Circle Verona, WI 53593

Douglas Holton Milwaukee Fire Department 711 W. Wells Street Milwaukee, WI 53233

Robert Ritger Wis. Hospital Preparedness Program 306 9th Avenue S Onalaska, WI 54650

Johnnie Smith Wisconsin Div. of Emergency Management 2400 Wright Street Madison, WI 53704

STUDY ASSIGNMENT: The committee is directed to: (1) conduct a recodification of ch. 166, Stats., relating to emergency management, to include reorganizing the chapter in a logical manner, renumbering and retitling sections, consolidating related provisions, modernizing language, resolving ambiguities in language, and making other necessary changes; (2) make recommendations on issues relating to continuity of legislative operations during emergencies, including but not limited to lines of succession, alternate seat of state government for the Legislature, suspension of legislative quorum requirements, and participation by legislators through alternative means from remote locations; and (3) review the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act for consideration and introduction in the next legislative biennium.

12 MEMBERS: 1 Senator, 3 Representatives, and 8 Public Members.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF: Pam Shannon and Richard Sweet, Senior Staff Attorneys; and Tracey Young, Support Staff.

Committee Materials List

(Copies of documents are available at <u>www.legis.state.wi.us/lc</u>)

| Recomme | ndations to the Joint Legislative | e Council (Ma | v 20 2009) | | |
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| October 1, 2008 Meeting | <u>Notice</u> | <u>Agenda</u> | <u>Audio</u> | <u>Minutes</u> |
| <u>Homefront</u>, Wisconsin Homeland <u>Testimony</u>, presented by Edward <u>Memorandum</u>, submitted by Dav Association. <u>Handout</u>, WARN State Status, su Environmental Group, Water Div <u>Testimony</u>, submitted by Fire Ch <u>Testimony</u>, submitted by Lonnie | d A. Geick, Ba vid Callender, ubmitted by La vision (MEG-W nief David Bero | raboo City Adn Legislative Ass awrie Kobza, Lo ater). pusek, North S | ninistrator. sociate, Wisconsin C egal Counsel, Munic hore Fire Departme | ipal nt. |

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| per 10, 2008 Meeting | <u>Notice</u> | <u>Agenda</u> | <u>Audio</u> | <u>Minutes</u> |
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Emergency Management.

- o <u>Handout</u>, from Johnnie Smith, Administrator, Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management.
- <u>PowerPoint Presentation</u>, by Art Zoellner, Continuity of Government Director, Wisconsin Department of Administration.
- <u>Testimony</u>, Robert J. Marchant, Chief Clerk and Director of Operations, Wisconsin Senate.
- <u>Testimony</u>, Tom Anderson, Emergency Coordinator, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health
- <u>Testimony</u>, Billie Bayou, Volunteer Systems Coordinator, Public Health Preparedness Unit, Division of Public Health, Department of Health Services.
- <u>Map</u>, distributed at the request of Billie Bayou, Volunteer Systems Coordinator, Public Health Preparedness Unit, Division of Public Health, Department of Health Services.
- <u>Presentation</u>, by Patrick Fuller, Assembly Chief Clerk, Wisconsin Assembly.
- <u>Handout</u>, by Patrick Fuller, Assembly Chief Clerk, Wisconsin Assembly.

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