



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 4

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS

FROM: David L. Lovell, Senior Analyst

RE: Enrollment of Tribal Police Officers in the Wisconsin Retirement System

DATE: February 19, 2013

From time to time, the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations has discussed the topic of authorizing tribes to enroll their police officers in the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS), the most recent time being in 2006. The suggestion has been made again that the committee consider this topic. Attached to this memo is a memo prepared for the 2006 discussion. The memo provides background regarding options for providing retirement benefits to tribal police officers and the policies that have been pursued by certain other states. It also presents issues identified by the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF), related to opening the WRS to tribal police officers, and legislative options for addressing the issues. (A memo from ETF laying out these issues was attached to the original memo; it is not included at this time, as the memo itself summarizes the issues adequately.)

Many of the details in the background sections of the 2006 memo are out of date, but they are not revised at this time, as they still provide a good overview of the subject and how it has been addressed in other states. Certain aspects of Wisconsin law have also changed since 2006, but none sufficiently that the memo cannot still be used as a basis for the committee's initial discussion of this subject.

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Attachment