



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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May 2, 2007

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #472

Storage Facility (Historical Society)

Bill Agency

[LFB 2007-09 Budget Summary: Page 356, #6]

CURRENT LAW

The Wisconsin Historical Society serves as the designated state archive and the state's trustee for preserving state and national history. The Society is required to make its collections accessible to the public.

GOVERNOR

Provide \$62,900 GPR and \$62,900 PR in 2007-08 and \$127,600 GPR and \$127,600 PR in 2008-09 for the operation of a joint storage facility for the collections of the Historical Society. Provide the GPR funding in the agency's largest general program operations appropriation and the program revenue from the Indian gaming receipts in a new appropriation created for this purpose. Specify that the unencumbered balance of this appropriation on June 30 of each year would revert to the Indian gaming receipts appropriation.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Under 2005 Act 25, the Legislature enumerated \$15,000,000 general fund supported borrowing for the construction of a combined preservation storage facility, with the funding available for release after July 1, 2007. The combined storage facility will serve the needs of the Historical Society and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Historical Society also has a 2007-09 capital budget item that would provide \$3,250,000 general fund supported borrowing for purchase and installation of a shelving system at the new facility, as well as an additional

\$10,000,000 request for the facility's construction included in the Department of Administration's capital budget.

2. Currently, the Historical Society headquarters building on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison serves as its main administrative building, public access point to collections, and its primary storage facility. Due to the age and size of the building, it is no longer adequate to house the Society's collections. Environmental conditions in the building pose a risk to historical materials, especially basement storage that also houses the building's water, steam, and sewerage pipes. Although approximately 12% of the Society's archives collections are distributed among 12 UW campuses, the Superior Public Library, and the Northern Great Lakes Center, the headquarters building in Madison is filled to capacity with materials and can no longer accommodate growing collections. As a result, the Society currently leases an additional 18,000 square feet of storage space in Madison, which cannot be accessed by the public.

3. Located on the Capitol Square in Madison since 1993, the Veterans Museum facility is in good condition, and environmental conditions are adequate. However, the 32,000 square-foot building will soon reach capacity, causing the museum to become more selective in its acquisitions. Like the Historical Society, the Veterans Museum currently leases additional warehouse space for large artifacts and display equipment.

4. The proposal addressed by this paper would provide advance operations funding for supplies and limited-term employees at the Historical Society in anticipation of the move to the new facility. Assembled over the course of its 150 year history, the Society's large collections necessitate extensive preparation prior to a move. Collections include state and local records, various media (including books, film, and photographs), textiles, archeological materials, and equipment. The library collection, including all published material, comprises four million items, occupying 100,000 cubic feet. The archives collection, including historically significant personal papers, organization records, and other unpublished material, occupies 130,000 cubic feet. The Historical Museum has approximately 500,000 artifacts and archeological items occupying 200,000 cubic feet. The historic sites owned by the Historical Society exhibit approximately 150,000 additional artifacts, although another 30,000 square feet of storage space is necessary to house the sites' remaining materials.

5. The new preservation storage facility would allow the Historical Society to consolidate its collections, discontinue use of leased storage space, and relieve overcrowding at its headquarters building. The new facility would provide secure, climate-controlled space for the Historical Museum's collections and a large portion of the library and archives collections. For the Veterans Museum, the facility would provide storage for excess materials and weapons collections, as well as space for the preparation of large exhibit items. The final square footage and location of the new facility has not yet been determined.

6. Construction of the combined storage facility is expected to take two years and be completed by late 2010. By late 2011, the process of moving the materials should be complete. Funding under the bill would allow the Society to hire a project coordinator and limited-term

employees and to buy moving supplies to begin preparations for the eventual move. Preparations will include identifying the items to be moved and those that will stay at the headquarters building, as well as determining the order in which the collections will be moved and how the wide variety of items will be packed. Also, individual items to be moved will be labeled and entered into a database for tracking purposes. Given the large volume of materials to be moved, it is expected that this process will continue through the 2007-09 biennium and into the 2009-11 biennium.

7. On the other hand, given the extended timeline for construction and completion of the storage facility, the Committee could choose to delay funding for this purpose and provide funding for the limited-term employees and moving supplies in 2008-09 only. Such a delay would allow time for the project site and construction plans to be finalized, which in turn would provide more information about the space that will become available. The final size of the facility will determine the volume of collections and materials to be moved and stored.

8. Indian gaming receipts not otherwise appropriated to state agencies are deposited in the general fund. Increasing tribal gaming allocations to agencies, either by providing additional funding to existing programs or by establishing and funding new programs, has the effect of decreasing the amount of tribal gaming revenue that would otherwise be credited to the general fund.

ALTERNATIVES TO BILL

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to provide \$62,900 GPR and \$62,900 PR in 2007-08 and \$127,600 GPR and \$127,600 PR in 2008-09 for the operation of a storage facility for the collections of the Historical Society. Program revenue would be funded from the Indian gaming receipts in a new appropriation created for this purpose.

ALT 1	Change to Bill		Change to Base	
	Revenue	Funding	Revenue	Funding
GPR	\$0	\$0	-\$190,500	\$190,500
PR	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>190,500</u>
Total	\$0	\$0	-\$190,500	\$381,000

2. Modify the Governor's recommendation to delete \$62,900 GPR and \$62,900 PR in 2007-08. This alternative would provide \$127,600 GPR and \$127,600 PR in 2008-09 related to the operation of a storage facility for the collections of the Historical Society.

ALT 2	Change to Bill		Change to Base	
	Revenue	Funding	Revenue	Funding
GPR	\$62,900	-\$62,900	-\$127,600	\$127,600
PR	<u>0</u>	<u>- 62,900</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>127,600</u>
Total	\$62,900	-\$125,800	-\$127,600	\$255,200

3. Delete provision.

ALT 3	Change to Bill		Change to Base	
	Revenue	Funding	Revenue	Funding
GPR	\$190,500	-\$190,500	\$0	\$0
PR	<u>0</u>	<u>- 190,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	\$190,500	-\$381,000	\$0	\$0

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