



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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May 16, 2017

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #440

### Standard Budget Adjustments (Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board)

[LFB 2017-19 Budget Summary: Page 296, #1]

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#### CURRENT LAW

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) was created under 1989 Act 31. The Riverway extends approximately 92 miles, from below the dam at Prairie du Sac to the confluence with the Mississippi River. By statute, the Board consists of nine members, with one member from each county containing part of the Riverway: Crawford, Dane, Grant, Iowa, Richland, and Sauk. The three other members are appointed by the Governor, required to represent recreational user groups, and must not be residents of any affected counties. The Board is administratively attached to the Department of Natural Resources, and is to preserve and protect the scenic beauty and natural character of the Riverway through controlled land use and development. The LWSRB is authorized 2.0 positions from the segregated (SEG) conservation fund (75% water resources account and 25% forestry account). By statute, all LWSRB employees are to be in the unclassified service.

#### GOVERNOR

Delete \$3,100 annually for full funding of continuing salaries and fringe benefits. Additionally, to conform to the statutes, convert 1.0 position from the classified service to the unclassified service, to reconcile the state budget system with statutory provisions for LWSRB employees.

#### DISCUSSION POINTS

1. In September, 2016, the LWSRB reclassified 1.0 office associate to an unclassified program assistant position to conform to current law. Compensation for the position also was

increased, which aligns pay for the LWSRB program assistant with current salaries for program assistants of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR). KVR and LWSRB have often been considered similar entities, due to their similar geographic locations, agency size, oversight by independent boards, and responsibilities for maintaining state scenic and recreational properties. The statutes also require all employees of both agencies to be in the unclassified service.

2. While the bill would move the position from classified to unclassified, no additional funding was provided to reflect the salary and fringe increase accompanying the reclassification. Providing an additional \$14,600 annually (\$9,900 salary and \$4,700 fringe), for a net increase of \$11,500 annually from the agency base, would provide sufficient funding to reflect this reclassification [Alternative 2].

3. If the additional funding is not provided [Alternative 1], the LWSRB director indicates the agency will have to cover these costs from supplies and services, budgeted under current law and the bill at \$53,500 annually. However, the director argues these funds are committed to other board expenses, which would have to be reduced as a result. These could include: (a) board meeting expenses, including travel and per diems, which could reduce the number of board meetings, or board members may be asked to voluntarily forfeit their travel/per diem claims; (b) travel expenses, such as for public speaking and mileage reimbursements; (c) educational canoe outings for public and local officials; and (d) board publications.

## ALTERNATIVES

1. Adopt the Governor's recommendation to delete \$3,100 annually from the conservation fund (\$2,300 water resources SEG and \$800 forestry SEG) for full funding of continuing salaries and fringe benefits. Additionally, to conform to the statutes, convert 1.0 position from the classified service to the unclassified service, to reconcile the state budget system with statutory provisions for LWSRB employees.

ALT 1	Change to	
	Base	Bill
SEG	-\$6,200	\$0

2. Modify the Governor's recommendation to convert 1.0 position to the unclassified service, but instead provide \$11,500 SEG annually (\$8,600 water resources SEG and \$2,900 forestry SEG).

ALT 2	Change to	
	Base	Bill
SEG	\$23,000	\$29,200

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