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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## GENERAL REPORT

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May 2024

### GENERAL REPORT OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO THE 2023-24 LEGISLATURE

Study Committee on the Commercial Building Permitting Process

Study Committee on Increasing Offender Employment Opportunities

Law Revision Committee

Study Committee on Occupational Licenses

Study Committee on Shared School District Services

Study Committee on Uniform Death Reporting Standards

Study Committee on Wisconsin National Guard Sexual Misconduct Procedures

Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
**JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

May 2024

To the Honorable Governor Tony Evers  
and Members of the 2023-24 Wisconsin Legislature

On behalf of Senator Chris Kapenga and Representative Nancy VanderMeer, Co-Chairs, Joint Legislative Council, I am pleased to submit this General Report of the Joint Legislative Council. This General Report summarizes the work of the Joint Legislative Council and its committees during the period from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2024. These committees were established to examine issues and problems identified by the Joint Legislative Council or referred to the Joint Legislative Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Sappenfield".

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Anne Sappenfield  
Director  
Legislative Council Staff

AS:ksm

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**Co-Chairs**

Chris Kapenga | Senate President  
Nancy VanderMeer | Representative

**Legislative Council Staff**

Anne Sappenfield | Director

## JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

[s. 13.81, Stats.]

### SENATE MEMBERS

**Chris Kapenga, Co-Chair**  
Senate President  
Delafield

**Mary Felzkowski**  
Irma

**Dianne Hesselbein**  
Minority Leader  
Madison

**John Jagler**  
Watertown

**LaTonya Johnson**  
JFC Ranking Minority  
Milwaukee

**Devin LeMahieu**  
Majority Leader  
Oostburg

**Howard Marklein**  
JFC Co-Chair  
Spring Green

**Romaine Quinn**  
Cameron

**Jeff Smith**  
Assistant Minority Leader  
Brunswick

**Mark Spreitzer**  
Beloit

**Patrick Testin**  
Stevens Point

### ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

**Nancy VanderMeer, Co-Chair**  
Tomah

**Tyler August**  
Majority Leader  
Lake Geneva

**Jill Billings**  
La Crosse

**Mark Born**  
JFC Co-Chair  
Beaver Dam

**Cindi Duchow**  
Pewaukee

**Kalan Haywood**  
Assistant Minority Leader  
Milwaukee

**Tip McGuire**  
JFC Ranking Minority  
Kenosha

**Greta Neubauer**  
Minority Leader  
Racine

**Kevin Petersen**  
Speaker Pro Tempore  
Waupaca

**Jon Plumer**  
Lodi

**Robin Vos**  
Speaker  
Rochester

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.

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF

## **Director**

Anne Sappenfield

## **Deputy Directors**

Rachel Letzing and Dan Schmidt

### **Principal Attorneys**

Katie Bender-Olson  
Scott Grosz  
Anna Henning  
Margit Kelley  
Brian Larson  
David Moore  
Melissa Schmidt

### **Senior Staff Attorneys**

Peggy Hurley  
Ethan Lauer  
Steve McCarthy  
Amber Otis

### **Staff Attorneys**

Abby Gorzlancyk  
Emily Hicks  
Tom Koss  
Kelly McGraw  
Patrick Ward

### **Staff Analyst**

Ben Kranner

### **Administrative Services**

Julie Learned, Senior Administrative Assistant  
Kelly Mautz, Executive Assistant to the Director  
Katie Patyk, Administrative Assistant  
Anglinia Washington, Finance Officer

# PREFACE

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The Joint Legislative Council General Report to the 2023-24 Legislature is prepared pursuant to s. 13.81 (3), Stats. The report summarizes the work of the Joint Legislative Council from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2024, and the work of the statutory and study committees established by the council that reported to the Joint Legislative Council.

The Joint Legislative Council continued two statutory committees and established six study committees to conduct various studies and to make reports to the 2023-24 Legislature. [See list on page 1 of Part I.]

As of May 31, 2024, the following seven reports containing the study committee recommendations were submitted to the 2023-24 Legislature. These reports are listed below. Copies may be obtained from the Legislative Council staff office or website (<http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc>).

- RL-2023-01 Report to the Legislature, Study Committee on the Commercial Building Permitting Process
- RL-2023-02 Report to the Legislature, Study Committee on Uniform Death Reporting Standards.
- RL-2023-03 Report to the Legislature, Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations.
- RL-2023-04 Report to the Legislature, Study Committee on Shared School District Services.
- RL-2023-05 Report to the Legislature, Study Committee on Increasing Offender Employment Opportunities.
- RL-2023-06 Report to the Legislature, Study Committee on Occupational Licenses.
- RL-2023-07 Report to the Legislature, Study Committee on Wisconsin National Guard Sexual Misconduct Procedures.

The Law Revision Committee does not report to the Joint Legislative Council; rather, it introduces its legislation separately.

This General Report is organized into the following parts:

- Part I describes the Joint Legislative Council and, particularly, the activities of the 2022-23 council.
- Part II contains a list of, and briefly describes the work of, each of the council's committees, as well as the Joint Legislative Council and legislative actions on the committee recommendations.
- The appendix lists the members of the study committees that were established during the period covered by this report.

Complete information on each study committee from the 2022 interim, and previous interims, is available at the Legislative Council staff's [website](#).

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# PART I – WORK OF THE 2022-23 JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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## JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The Joint Legislative Council held one meeting between January 1, 2022 and May 31, 2024 (the period covered by this report), on the following date:

- March 23, 2023.

The proposals introduced by the Joint Legislative Council and the Law Revision Committee are discussed in Part II of this report.

## Council Study Committees

During the period covered by this report, two statutory committees and six study committees met and reported to the 2023-24 Joint Legislative Council.

The statutory committees were:

- Law Revision Committee.
- Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations.

The study committees were:

- Study Committee on Increasing Offender Employment Opportunities.
- Study Committee on Occupational Licenses.
- Study Committee on Shared School District Services.
- Study Committee on the Commercial Building Permitting Process.
- Study Committee on Uniform Death Reporting Standards.
- Study Committee on Wisconsin National Guard Sexual Misconduct Procedures.

## Organization and Activities of the Joint Legislative Council

Twenty-two legislators serve on the Joint Legislative Council: 11 from the Senate; and 11 from the Assembly. Twelve of these members are *ex officio* and serve on the Council because of their positions as legislative leaders. These members are: the speaker of the Assembly; the president of the Senate; the speaker pro tempore of the Assembly; president pro tempore of the Senate; the majority and minority leaders of the Assembly and Senate; the two co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF); and the ranking minority member of JCF from each house. The other 10 members are appointed in the same manner as members of standing committees are appointed: five are appointed by the chair of the Senate Committee on Organization; and five by the speaker of the Assembly. [s. 13.81 (1), Stats.]

The Joint Legislative Council establishes study committees during the recess periods of the Legislature. The council determines which studies will be conducted and establishes committees to review, study, and propose recommendations. These studies generally are of four types:

- Intensive examination of problems that are expected to confront a succeeding Legislature.
- Review of controversial subjects that were unresolved by the previous Legislature.



- Major codifications and revisions of portions of the law.
- Methods of improving the operation and effectiveness of state agencies.

There are two continuing council committees currently required by statute: the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations; and the Law Revision Committee. [s. 13.83, Stats.]

Each committee submits a report to the Joint Legislative Council. In almost all cases, the report makes recommendations for legislative changes based upon its study. The council reviews the recommendations for legislation and introduces those approved by a majority of the membership of the council (12 votes).

## **Operation of Legislative Council Staff**

The Joint Legislative Council and the council's study committees are staffed by a nonpartisan legislative service agency. The Legislative Council staff serves in the unclassified service. As of May 31, 2022, the council staff included, in addition to the Director, 17 attorneys, two analysts, and four administrative staff.

The basic duties of the staff include:

**Services for the council and its committees.** The Legislative Council staff provides services for the Joint Legislative Council and its study committees.

**Services for legislative committees.** The Legislative Council staff provides nonpartisan legal analysis and policy research for standing committees and their subcommittees, select or special committees of the Legislature, and a number of joint statutory committees. The Legislative Council staff serves as the secretariat for the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization and for the Joint Committee on Employment Relations.

**Services for individual legislators.** Upon request, the Legislative Council staff provides legal analysis and other research to individual legislators.

**Administrative Rules Clearinghouse.** Prior to any public hearing on a proposed rule, or prior to notification of the chief clerks if no hearing is required, the agency proposing the rule must submit the proposed rule to the Legislative Council staff for review. The Legislative Council staff is required to review the rule for various technical requirements, such as statutory authority for promulgation of the rule and the form and clarity of the rule and issue a clearinghouse report with its comments on the rule. The Legislative Council staff also works with and assists the appropriate standing committees throughout the rule-making process. For additional information, see the Clearinghouse's 2023 Annual Report to the Legislature, which is available at <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/lc#rulesclearinghouse>. [See s. 227.15, Stats.]

**Services to the public.** The Legislative Council staff is available to answer questions from members of the general public and from research agencies and legislators of other states. Information about the Legislative Council staff, as well as publications prepared by the staff, is available at <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc>.

## PART II – JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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### COMMERCIAL BUILDING PERMITTING PROCESS

The Joint Legislative Council established the Study Committee on the Commercial Building Permitting Process and appointed the chairperson by an April 8, 2022 mail ballot. The committee's assignment was the following:

...to review the current commercial building permitting process. This review shall focus on the commercial plan review process within the Department of Safety and Professional Services and municipalities, timelines for environmental permitting, and the role of the Commercial Building Code Council. As part of its review, the study committee shall also evaluate approaches in other states and identify innovative and exemplary policies that could serve as a model for Wisconsin. Following this review, the committee shall recommend legislation to improve the commercial building permitting process.

Membership of the study committee was appointed by a May 31, 2022 mail ballot. Final committee membership consisted of one senator, three representatives, and nine public members. A list of the committee membership can be found in the **appendix** to this report.

The study committee held four meetings on the following dates:

July 19, 2022  
August 24, 2022  
September 28, 2022  
October 20, 2022

### Actions of the Joint Legislative Council

At its March 23, 2023 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council voted to introduce the following legislation:

- 2023 Senate Bill 186 (2023 Assembly Bill 197), relating to procedures for reviewing commercial building plans.
- 2023 Senate Bill 187 (2023 Assembly Bill 198), relating to local government review of commercial building plans.
- 2023 Senate Bill 188 (2023 Assembly Bill 199), relating to permission to start construction of a commercial building before plan approval.

### Actions of the Legislature

2023 Senate Bills 186, 187, and 188 were passed by both houses of the Legislature, but were vetoed by Governor Evers.

# INCREASING OFFENDER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[A summary of the study committee’s meetings, materials, and membership, and the final report for the study committee, are available at <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/>.]

## Summary of Committee Activity

The Joint Legislative Council established the Study Committee on Increasing Offender Employment Opportunities and appointed the chairperson by an April 8, 2022 mail ballot. The committee’s assignment was the following:

...to review existing impediments to employment and job training for individuals who are incarcerated or recently released and to recommend legislation following its review. The committee shall explore ways to expand connections between private employers and potential employees who are incarcerated in state institutions or on extended supervision, explore vocational earned release programs for possible implementation, consider release location flexibility based on employment opportunities, and evaluate other methods for improving job prospects for the offender population.

Membership of the study committee was appointed by a May 31, 2022 mail ballot. Final committee membership consisted of two senators, four representatives, and five public members. A list of the committee membership can be found in the **appendix** to this report.

The study committee held five meetings on the following dates:

August 30, 2022  
September 29, 2022  
October 21, 2022  
November 10, 2022  
January 11, 2023

## Actions of the Joint Legislative Council

At its March 23, 2023 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council voted to introduce the following legislation:

- 2023 Senate Bill 169 (2023 Assembly Bill 180), relating to establishing a hotline for employers interested in hiring individuals with a conviction record.
- 2023 Senate Bill 170 (2023 Assembly Bill 181), relating to earned release for inmates upon completion of an employment readiness training program and granting rule-making authority.
- 2023 Senate Bill 171 (2023 Assembly Bill 182), relating to a certification of rental readiness and funding to cover damages caused by certification of rental readiness holders.
- 2023 Senate Bill 172 (2023 Assembly Bill 183), relating to establishing and operating community reentry centers and making an appropriation.

## Actions of the Legislature

2023 Senate Bill 169 became 2023 Wisconsin Act 228 and 2023 Senate Bill 172 became 2023 Wisconsin Act 233. Copies of the acts, and a memorandum describing the acts, are available at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/>.

# LAW REVISION COMMITTEE

[A summary of the committee’s meetings, materials, and membership are available at [http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/.](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/)]

## Summary of Committee Activity

The Law Revision Committee was first created by the Legislative Council at its May 30, 1980 meeting, as a statutory committee of the Council, pursuant to s. 13.83 (1), Stats., as created by Ch. 204, Laws of 1979. The membership of the committee is to be appointed in “each biennium.” Members were most recently appointed on September 6, 2023. The membership of the committee consisted of four senators and four representatives. A list of the committee membership can be found in the **appendix** to this report.

The statute directs the committee to:

- Review remedial legislation based on non-substantive changes recommended by agencies;
- Review court decisions and opinions of the attorney general which state that a statute is unconstitutional, ambiguous, or otherwise in need of revision; and
- Review correction bills and minor substantive revision bills prepared by the Legislative Reference Bureau.

The committee is also directed to introduce the bills prepared on these subjects directly, not through the Council, into the Legislature.

The committee’s activity for the period covered by this report is summarized below.

During the period covered by this report, the committee held one meeting on February 14, 2024.

## Remedial Legislation and Correction Bills

### LAW REVISION COMMITTEE Summary of 2023 Legislative Action

<i>Bill Number</i>	<i>Recommended by</i>	<i>Subject Matter</i>	<i>Status</i>
<i>Remedial Legislation</i>			
A.B. 1096	Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	agricultural producer security council membership	2023 WI Act 255
A.B. 1097	Corrections	renaming Lincoln County Correctional Institution Lincoln Correctional Institution	2023 WI Act 256
A.B. 1098	Employee Trust Funds	contributions by protective occupation participants and separation from service for retirement benefits under the Wisconsin Retirement System	2023 WI Act 257
A.B. 1099	Financial Institutions	updating an obsolete reference to the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.; eliminating an obsolete provision in the Wisconsin Consumer Act; updating a cross-reference to a federal law definition of high-cost mortgage; information included on a notary public’s stamp and clarifying terminology and removing statutory duplication relating to notaries public	2023 WI Act 258

<i>Bill Number</i>	<i>Recommended by</i>	<i>Subject Matter</i>	<i>Status</i>
A.B. 1100	Health Services	relating to: degree requirements for certain local health officers; admissions authorized by counties to mental health institutes; and eliminating references to defunct regional long-term care advisory committees	2023 WI Act 259
A.B. 1101	Justice	the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratories division administrator	2023 WI Act 260
A.B. 1102	Natural Resources	administration of well drilling, heat exchange drilling, and pump installing examinations	2023 WI Act 261
A.B. 1103	Public Instruction	requirements for school breakfast reimbursement and repealing a teaching license requirement	2023 WI Act 262
A.B. 1104	Veterans Affairs	the Council on Veterans Programs; county veterans service offices; repealing expired programs within the Department of Veterans Affairs; mental health services for post-traumatic stress disorder; and celebration of Memorial Day	Failed pursuant to SJR 1
A.B. 1105	State Treasurer	eliminating an obsolete provision relating to the state treasurer	2023 WI Act 263
<i>Correction Bills</i>			
A.B. 1095	Legislative Reference Bureau	revising various provisions of the statutes for the purpose of making corrections and reconciling conflicts	Failed pursuant to SJR 1

## **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES**

[A summary of the study committee’s meetings, materials, and membership, and the final report for the study committee, are available at [http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/.](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/)]

### **Summary of Committee Activity**

The Joint Legislative Council established the Study Committee on Occupational Licenses and appointed the chairperson by an April 8, 2022 mail ballot. The committee’s assignment was the following:

...to review the current occupational licensing system administered by the Department of Safety and Professional Services. The committee shall review prior recommendations made by the department regarding any current laws requiring occupational credentials that may be eliminated without clearly harming or endangering the health, safety, or welfare of the public. The committee shall also review whether it is necessary to implement systems of review both to determine the necessity of legislative proposals for new occupational credentials, and to periodically review the appropriateness of maintaining current occupational credential requirements. Lastly, the committee shall review options to expand access to individuals from other states to receive a reciprocal credential to

practice in Wisconsin. Following these reviews, the committee shall recommend legislation on current credentials that may be eliminated, on systems for review of new and existing occupational credentials, and on the issuance of reciprocal credentials.

Membership of the study committee was appointed by a May 31, 2022 mail ballot. Final committee membership consisted of two senators, two representatives, and five public members. A list of the committee membership can be found in the **appendix** to this report.

The study committee held five meetings on the following dates:

August 2, 2022

September 27, 2022

October 12, 2022

November 15, 2022

December 13, 2022

## **Actions of the Joint Legislative Council**

At its March 23, 2023 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council voted to introduce the following legislation:

- 2023 Senate Bill 189 (2023 Assembly Bill 200), relating to biennial report on various metrics related to the issuance of occupational credentials.
- 2023 Senate Bill 190 (2023 Assembly Bill 201), relating to publication of credential metrics.
- 2023 Senate Bill 191 (2023 Assembly Bill 202), relating to investigations of conviction records by DSPS for purposes of determining eligibility for credentials and granting rule-making authority.
- 2023 Senate Bill 192 (2023 Assembly Bill 203), relating to renewals of certain credentials.
- 2023 Senate Bill 193 (2023 Assembly Bill 204), relating to renewal dates and continuing education requirements for certain credentials issued by DSPS and credentialing boards and granting rule-making authority.
- 2023 Senate Bill 194 (2023 Assembly Bill 205), relating to practice of certain professions by credential holders from other states.
- 2023 Senate Bill 195 (2023 Assembly Bill 206), relating to requiring DSPS to post certain credential information on its website.
- 2023 Senate Bill 196 (2023 Assembly Bill 207), relating to ratification of the counseling compact.
- 2023 Senate Bill 197 (2023 Assembly Bill 208), relating to ratification of the audiology and speech-language pathology interstate compact, extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, and granting rule-making authority.

## **Actions of the Legislature**

2023 Senate Bill 196 became 2023 Wisconsin Act 55, 2023 Senate Bill 197 became 2023 Wisconsin Act 56, and 2023 Assembly Bill 203 became 2023 Wisconsin Act 33 during the 2023-24 legislative session. 2023 Assembly Bills 200 and 201 passed both houses of the Legislature, but were vetoed by Governor Evers. Copies of the acts, and a memorandum describing the acts, are available at:

<http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc>.

## SHARED SCHOOL DISTRICT SERVICES

The Joint Legislative Council established the Study Committee on Shared School District Services and appointed the chairperson by an April 8, 2022 mail ballot. The committee's assignment was the following:

...to review current barriers to shared administrative or other services between school districts, and explore statutory changes or creation of incentives to encourage efficiencies. The committee shall consider methods for sharing or consolidating services such as district-level administration and personnel, purchasing, technology and data processing, transportation, food service, and building maintenance and make recommendations for legislation. As part of its work, the committee shall study school district structures employed in other states, particularly county-wide school district models.

Membership of the study committee was appointed by a May 31, 2022 mail ballot. Final committee membership consisted of two senators, two representatives, and six public members. A list of the committee membership can be found in the **appendix** to this report.

The study committee held five meetings on the following dates:

July 20, 2022  
August 22, 2022  
October 26, 2022  
November 30, 2022  
December 13, 2022

### Actions of the Joint Legislative Council

At its March 23, 2023 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council voted to introduce the following legislation:

- 2023 Assembly Bill 190 (2023 Senate Bill 179), relating to school and school district accountability report for a consolidated school district.
- 2023 Assembly Bill 191 (2023 Senate Bill 180), relating to reducing the number of members on the school board of a consolidated school district.
- 2023 Assembly Bill 192 (2023 Senate Bill 181), relating to aid for transporting students between school districts that share services and making an appropriation.
- 2023 Assembly Bill 193 (2023 Senate Bill 182), relating to grants for feasibility studies of school district consolidation or whole grade sharing and making an appropriation.
- 2023 Assembly Bill 194 (2023 Senate Bill 183), relating to state aid for school district consolidation.
- 2023 Assembly Bill 195 (2023 Senate Bill 184), relating to calculating a consolidated school district's revenue limit.
- 2023 Assembly Bill 196 (2023 Senate Bill 185), relating to aid to school districts that share services for costs associated with student information systems and making an appropriation.

### Actions of the Legislature

The recommendations of the committee failed to be enacted during the 2023-24 legislative session.

## **UNIFORM DEATH REPORTING STANDARDS**

The Joint Legislative Council established the Study Committee on Uniform Death Reporting Standards and appointed the chairperson by an April 8, 2022 mail ballot. The committee's assignment was the following:

...to review the current protocols for investigating causes of death and reporting death, and the uniformity of those protocols. The review shall focus on options to implement more comprehensive uniform death reporting standards across Wisconsin, including the advantages and barriers to implementation of such standards. Following review, the committee shall develop legislation to provide minimum requirements for death investigations and reporting, particularly deaths involving homicide, suicide, child or infant death, domestic violence, maternal mortality, and substance use.

Membership of the study committee was appointed by a May 31, 2022 mail ballot. Final committee membership consisted of two senators, two representatives, and seven public members. A list of the committee membership can be found in the **appendix** to this report.

The study committee held five meetings on the following dates:

July 18, 2022  
August 17, 2022  
October 17, 2022  
November 15, 2022  
December 15, 2022.

### **Actions of the Joint Legislative Council**

At its March 23, 2023 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council voted to introduce the following legislation:

- 2023 Senate Bill 173 (2023 Assembly Bill 184), relating to providing additional information fields regarding occupation on death records.
- 2023 Senate Bill 174 (2023 Assembly Bill 185), relating to requiring use of the electronic system of vital records for medical certifications of death.
- 2023 Senate Bill 175 (2023 Assembly Bill 186), relating to recommended training for persons who complete and sign medical certifications of death.
- 2023 Senate Bill 176 (2023 Assembly Bill 187), relating to requiring DHS to establish and encourage best practices for coroners and medical examiners.
- 2023 Senate Bill 177 (2023 Assembly Bill 188), relating to fatality review teams and granting rule-making authority.
- 2023 Senate Bill 178 (2023 Assembly Bill 189), relating to requiring notification to the medical examiner or coroner of any death that occurs within 24 hours of presentment at or admission to certain facilities.

### **Actions of the Legislature**

2023 Senate Bill 173 became 2023 Wisconsin Act 171, 2023 Senate Bill 174 became 2023 Wisconsin Act 172, 2023 Senate Bill 175 became 2023 Wisconsin Act 173, 2023 Senate Bill 176 became 2023



Wisconsin Act 174, and 2023 Senate Bill 178 because 2023 Wisconsin Act 174. Copies of the acts, and a memorandum describing the acts, are available at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc>.

## **WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PROCEDURES**

The Joint Legislative Council established the Study Committee on Wisconsin National Guard Sexual Misconduct Procedures and appointed the chairperson by an April 8, 2022 mail ballot. The committee's assignment was the following:

...to study the Wisconsin National Guard's procedures for investigating and addressing sexual misconduct. The committee shall review the findings and recommendations contained in previously completed investigations into the Wisconsin National Guard's procedures, with a particular focus on the National Guard Bureau Office of Complex Investigation's assessment of the Wisconsin National Guard's sexual assault and harassment reporting procedures, investigation protocols, and accountability measures. The committee is directed to recommend legislation that enhances oversight of the Wisconsin National Guard as it relates to sexual misconduct, ensures state law complies with relevant federal requirements, and amends the Wisconsin Code of Military Justice where necessary.

Membership of the study committee was appointed by a May 31, 2022 mail ballot. Final committee membership consisted of two senators, two representatives, and seven public members. A list of the committee membership can be found in the **appendix** to this report.

The study committee held five meetings on the following dates:

August 9, 2022  
September 14, 2022  
October 13, 2022  
November 17, 2022  
December 12, 2022.

### **Actions of the Joint Legislative Council**

At its March 23, 2023 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council voted to introduce the following legislation:

- 2023 Assembly Bill 177 (2023 Senate Bill 166), relating to punitive articles in the Wisconsin Code of Military Justice prohibiting certain activities with a military recruit or trainee by a person in a position of special trust, prohibiting certain retaliatory activities, prohibiting sexual harassment, and prohibiting sexual assault; pretrial, trial, and post-trial procedures applicable to courts-martial cases under the Wisconsin Code of Military Justice; treatment of victims of an offense under the Wisconsin Military Code of Justice; defining military offenses under the Wisconsin Code of Military Justice; punishments for violations of the Wisconsin Code of Military Justice; and the removal of gender-specific language from the Wisconsin Code of Military Justice.
- 2023 Assembly Bill 178 (2023 Senate Bill 167), relating to annual reporting to the legislature of sexual harassment and assault that occurs in the Wisconsin National Guard and of changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.
- 2023 Assembly Bill 179 (2023 Senate Bill 168), relating to a case management system for tracking misconduct within the Wisconsin National Guard.

## Actions of the Legislature

2023 Senate Bill 166 became 2023 Wisconsin Act 47, 2023 Senate Bill 167 became 2023 Wisconsin Act 48, and 2023 Senate Bill 168 became 2023 Wisconsin Act 49 during the 2023-24 legislative session. Copies of the acts, and a memorandum describing the acts, are available at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc>.

## STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS

[A summary of the special committee's meetings, materials, and membership, and the final report for the special committee, are available at <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/>.]

### Summary of Committee Activity

The Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations is a permanent committee of the Joint Legislative Council established under s. 13.83 (3), Stats. The committee is directed by statute to study issues related to American Indians and the American Indian tribes and bands in this state and develop specific recommendations and legislative proposals relating to these issues.

The membership of the committee, appointed by the Joint Legislative Council, consists of not fewer than six nor more than 12 legislator members of the Senate and Assembly, including at least one member of the majority party and at least one member of the minority party from each house, and not fewer than six nor more than 11 members selected from names submitted by the federally recognized American Indian tribes and bands in this state (tribes) or the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC), including not more than one member based on the recommendation of any tribe or GLITC. The committee is assisted by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) composed of a representative of each of the following state departments: Children and Families; Health Services; Justice; Natural Resources; Public Instruction; Revenue; Transportation; and Workforce Development. A list of the committee membership and the TAC membership can be found in the **appendix** to this report.

The special committee held four meetings on the following dates:

August 18, 2022  
September 27, 2022  
November 2, 2022  
December 13, 2022

### Actions of the Joint Legislative Council

At its March 23, 2023 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council voted to introduce the following legislation:

- 2023 Assembly Bill 209 (2023 Senate Bill 198), relating to model academic standards related to American Indian studies, informational materials related to a school board's obligation to provide instruction on American Indians, and the American Indian studies requirement for teacher licensure.
- 2023 Assembly Bill 210 (2023 Senate Bill 199), relating to pupils wearing traditional tribal regalia at a graduation ceremony or school-sponsored event.
- 2023 Assembly Bill 211 (2023 Senate Bill 200), relating to authorization for tribal governments to copy certified copies of vital records for administrative use.
- 2023 Assembly Bill 212 (2023 Senate Bill 201), relating to requiring school districts to report information related to American Indian children attending school in the school district.

- 2023 Assembly Bill 213 (2023 Senate Bill 202), relating to o Indigenous Peoples' Day.
- 2023 Assembly Bill 214 (2023 Senate Bill 203), relating to a lifetime license that authorizes an individual to teach an American Indian language in an American Indian language program and modifying rules promulgated by the Department of Public Instruction.
- 2023 Assembly Bill 215 (2023 Senate Bill 204), relating to the membership of the Higher Educational Aids Board.

### **Actions of the Legislature**

The recommendations of the committee failed to be enacted during the 2023-24 legislative session.

# APPENDIX— COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LISTS

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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY COMMITTEE ON THE COMMERCIAL BUILDING PERMITTING CODE

**Chair Duey Stroebel**, Senator  
Saukville, WI 53080

**Vice Chair Rob Summerfield**, Representative  
Bloomer, WI 54724

**Samba Baldeh**, Representative  
Madison, WI 53704

**Robert Brandherm**, Professional Engineer  
NAIOP  
Lake Mills, WI 53551

**Sue Conley**, Representative  
Janesville, WI 53545

**Melissa Destree**, Architect/Interior Designer  
Destree Design Architects, Inc.  
Madison, WI 53703

**Frank Gorham**, Project Manager  
Ideal Builders  
Waunakee, WI 53597

**Doug Hoerth**, Chief Building Inspector  
City of Fond du Lac  
Malone, WI 53049

**Steve Klessig**, Architect  
Keller Inc.  
Brillion, WI 54110

**Mark Piotrowicz**, Director, Department of  
Development  
City of West Bend  
West Bend, WI 53095

**Robert Procter**, Attorney  
Axley Brynelson, LLP  
Madison, WI 53703

**Cory Scheidler**, Director of Architecture  
Cedar Corporation  
Menomonie Falls, WI 54751

**Peter Tomasi**, Lawyer  
Foley & Lardner, LLP (Milwaukee office)  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

July 2022

**STUDY ASSIGNMENT:** The study committee is directed to review the current commercial building permitting process. This review shall focus on the commercial plan review process within the Department of Safety and Professional Services and municipalities, timelines for environmental permitting, and the role of the Commercial Building Code Council. As part of its review, the study committee shall also evaluate approaches in other states and identify innovative and exemplary policies that could serve as a model for Wisconsin. Following this review, the committee shall recommend legislation to improve the commercial building permitting process.

**13 MEMBERS:** 1 Senator; 3 Representatives; and 9 Public Members.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF:** Anna Henning and Ethan Lauer, Senior Staff Attorneys, and Julie Learned, Administrative Staff.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY COMMITTEE ON INCREASING OFFENDER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Chair Mary Felzkowski**, Senator  
Tomahawk, WI 54487

**Vice Chair Michael Schraa**, Representative  
Oshkosh, WI 54904

**Jan Allman**, Senior VP for Public Affairs and  
Community Relations  
Fincantieri Marine Group  
Marinette, WI 54143

**Evan Goyke**, Representative  
Milwaukee, WI 53208

**Sadique Isahaku**, Dean, General Education  
Milwaukee Area Technical College  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

**Warren Petryk**, Representative  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

**Eli Rivera**, Founder & CEO  
The Way Out  
Milwaukee, WI

**Elizabeth Roddy**, Recruitment & Training Director  
ABC of Wisconsin  
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

**Shelia Stubbs**, Representative  
Madison, WI 53713

**Lena Taylor**, Senator  
Milwaukee, WI 53206

**Reijo Wahlin**, Recruitment Manager  
Stoughton Trailers  
Stoughton, WI 53589

June 2022

**STUDY ASSIGNMENT:** The study committee is directed to review existing impediments to employment and job training for individuals who are incarcerated or recently released and to recommend legislation following its review. The committee shall explore ways to expand connections between private employers and potential employees who are incarcerated in state institutions or on extended supervision, explore vocational earned release programs for possible implementation, consider release location flexibility based on employment opportunities, and evaluate other methods for improving job prospects for the offender population.

**11 MEMBERS:** 2 Senators; 4 Representatives; and 5 Public Members.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF:** Peggy Hurley and Katie Bender-Olson, Senior Staff Attorneys, and Kelly Mautz, Administrative Staff.

## LAW REVISION COMMITTEE

**Co-Chair Kevin Petersen**, Representative  
Room 309 North, State Capitol

**Co-Chair Van Wanggaard**, Senator  
Room 122 South, State Capitol

**Tyler August**, Representative  
Room 115 West, State Capitol

**Kelda Roys**, Senator  
Room 130 South, State Capitol

**Tip McGuire**, Representative  
Room 321 West, State Capitol

**Jeff Smith**, Senator  
Room 19 South, State Capitol

**Daniel Riemer**, Representative  
Room 104 North, State Capitol

**Eric Wimberger**, Senator  
Room 104 South, State Capitol

September 13, 2023

STUDY ASSIGNMENT: The committee is directed, pursuant to s. 13.83 (1), Stats., to (a) review remedial legislation based on nonsubstantive changes recommended by agencies; (b) review court decisions and opinions of the Attorney General which state that a statute is unconstitutional, ambiguous or otherwise in need of revision; (c) review Legislative Reference Bureau correction bills; (d) review suggestions for major codifications and revisions of the statutes; and (e) perform functions related to interstate compacts and agreements.

8 MEMBERS: 4 Representatives and 4 Senators.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF: Peggy Hurley and Ethan Lauer, Senior Staff Attorneys, and Kelly Mautz and Katie Patyk, Administrative Staff.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY COMMITTEE ON OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES

**Chair Rob Stafsholt**, Senator  
New Richmond, WI 54017

**Vice Chair Shae Sortwell**, Representative  
Two Rivers, WI 54241

**Monica Johnson**, Director of Business  
Development  
NorthLakes Community Clinic  
Hayward, WI 54843

**Stanley Johnson**, Professional Engineer  
ABC of Wisconsin  
Cato, WI 54230

**Supreme Moore Omokunde**, Representative  
Milwaukee, WI 53210

**Jessica Ollenburg**, Managing Partner/Principal  
Consultant  
Ollenburg LLC  
Milwaukee, WI 53228

**Janis Ringhand**, Senator  
Evansville, WI 53536

**Albert Walker**, Owner  
Imago Dei The Barber Lounge  
Green Bay, WI 54303

**Ann Zenk**, Senior VP of Workforce and Clinical  
Practice  
Wisconsin Hospital Association  
Madison, WI 53711

June 2022

**STUDY ASSIGNMENT:** The study committee is directed to review the current occupational licensing system administered by the Department of Safety and Professional Services. The committee shall review prior recommendations made by the department regarding any current laws requiring occupational credentials that may be eliminated without clearly harming or endangering the health, safety, or welfare of the public. The committee shall also review whether it is necessary to implement systems of review both to determine the necessity of legislative proposals for new occupational credentials, and to periodically review the appropriateness of maintaining current occupational credential requirements. Lastly, the committee shall review options to expand access to individuals from other states to receive a reciprocal credential to practice in Wisconsin. Following these reviews, the committee shall recommend legislation on current credentials that may be eliminated, on systems for review of new and existing occupational credentials, and on the issuance of reciprocal credentials.

**9 MEMBERS:** 2 Senators; 2 Representatives; and 5 Public Members.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF:** Margit Kelley, Senior Staff Attorney, Patrick Ward, Staff Attorney, and Kelly Mautz, Administrative Staff.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY COMMITTEE ON SHARED SCHOOL DISTRICT SERVICES

**Chair Robert Brooks**, Representative  
Saukville, WI 53080

**Vice Chair Dan Feyen**, Senator  
Fond du Lac, WI 54936

**Lance Bagstad**, District Administrator  
School District of Arcadia  
Arcadia, WI 54612

**Janet Bewley**, Senator  
Mason, WI 54856

**Dave Considine**, Representative  
Baraboo, WI 53913

**Jeffrey Dellutri**, Superintendent  
Fox Point-Bayside School District  
Fox Point, WI 53217

**Bobbie Guyette**, Director of School Nutrition  
School District of New Richmond  
New Richmond, WI 54017

**Ted Neitzke**, CEO  
CESA 6  
Port Washington, WI 53074

**Ben Niehaus**, Director of Member Services  
Wisconsin Association of School Boards  
Argonne, WI 54511

**Tara Villalobos**, District Administrator  
Holy Hill Area School District  
Hartford, WI 53027

July 2022

**STUDY ASSIGNMENT:** The study committee is directed to review current barriers to shared administrative or other services between school districts, and explore statutory changes or creation of incentives to encourage efficiencies. The committee shall consider methods for sharing or consolidating services such as district-level administration and personnel, purchasing, technology and data processing, transportation, food service, and building maintenance and make recommendations for legislation. As part of its work, the committee shall study school district structures employed in other states, particularly county-wide school district models.

**10 MEMBERS:** 2 Senators; 2 Representatives; and 6 Public Members.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF:** Emily Hicks and Raine Black, Staff Attorneys, Rachel Letzing, Deputy Director, and Julie Learned, Administrative Staff.



## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS

**Chair Jeffrey Mursau**, Representative  
Crivitz, WI 54114

**Dee Ann Allen**  
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
Indians  
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538

**David Bowen**, Representative  
Milwaukee, WI 53209

**Ned Daniels, Jr.**, Chairman  
Forest County Potawatomi Community  
Crandon, WI 54520

**James Edming**, Representative  
Glen Flora, WI 54526

**Conroy Greendeer, Jr.**  
Ho-Chunk Nation  
Black River Falls, WI 54615

**André Jacque**, Senator  
DePere, WI 54115

**Carmen McGeshick**, Council Member  
Sokaogon Chippewa Community  
Crandon, WI 54520

**Paul Tittl**, Representative  
Manitowoc, WI 54220

**Vice Chair Janet Bewley**, Senator  
Mason, WI 54856

**Joey Awonohopay**, Secretary  
Menominee Tribal Legislature  
Keshena, WI 54135

**Christopher D. Boyd**, Chairman  
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians  
Bayfield, WI 54814

**Michael Decorah**, Senior Intergovernmental  
Affairs  
Specialist  
St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin  
Webster, WI 54893

**Lorraine Gouge**, Vice-Chairwoman  
Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board  
Hayward, WI 54843

**Shannon Holsey**, President  
Stockbridge-Munsee Community  
Bowler, WI 54416

**Lisa Liggins**, Secretary  
Oneida Nation  
Oneida, WI 54155

**Donna Rozar**, Representative  
Marshfield, WI 54449

**Robyn Vining**, Representative  
Wauwatosa, WI 53212

June 2022

STUDY ASSIGNMENT: The Special Committee is directed to study issues relating to American Indians and the American Indian tribes and bands in this state and develop specific recommendations and legislative proposals relating to these issues. [s. 13.83 (3), Stats.]

18 MEMBERS: 6 Representatives; 2 Senators; and 10 Public Members.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF: Steve McCarthy Senior Staff Attorney, Ben Kranner, Staff Analyst, and Julie Learned, Administrative Staff.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

TOM BELLAVIA  
**Department of Justice**  
Assistant Attorney General  
17 W. Main St., Rm. 707  
INTER-D

DAVID O'CONNOR  
**Department of Public Instruction**  
125 South Webster St., 4<sup>th</sup> Flr.  
INTER-D

KRIS M. GOODWILL  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
GEF 2, Central Office  
INTER-D

CYLESS PETERSON  
**Department of Transportation**  
4802 Sheboygan Avenue  
P.O. Box 7965  
INTER-D

STEPHANIE LOZANO  
**Department of Children and Families**  
201 East Washington Avenue  
Second Floor  
INTER-D

DANIELLE WILLIAMS  
**Department of Workforce Development**  
201 East Washington Ave., Rm. A300  
INTER-D

GAIL NAHWAHQUAW  
**Department of Health Services**  
1 West Wilson St., Rm. 618  
INTER-D

HOLLY WILMER  
**Department of Revenue**  
2135 Rimrock Rd., #624A  
INTER-D

**ASSIGNMENT:** Established pursuant to s. 13.83 (3) (f), Stats., to assist the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations in performing its statutory functions.

**8 MEMBERS:** One representative designated by the following departments: Children and Families; Health Services; Justice; Natural Resources; Public Instruction; Revenue; Transportation; and Workforce Development.

September 2022

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY COMMITTEE ON UNIFORM DEATH REPORTING STANDARDS

**Chair Joan Ballweg**, Senator  
Markesan, WI 53946

**Lynda Biedrzycki**, Medical Examiner  
Waukesha and Washington Counties  
Waukesha, WI 53188

**Steve Doyle**, Representative  
Onalaska, WI 54650

**Sara Kohlbeck**, Director of Suicide Prevention  
Comprehensive Injury Center  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee, WI 53226

**Teresa Paulus**, Public Health Nurse  
Winnebago County Health Department  
Neenah, WI 54956

**Tara Steininger**, Funeral Director/Managing  
Partner  
Becker Ritter Funeral Home  
Brookfield, WI 53005

**Vice Chair Jesse James**, Representative  
Altoona, WI 54720

**Tim Candahl**, Chief Medical Examiner  
La Crosse County  
La Crosse, WI 54601

**LaTonya Johnson**, Senator  
Milwaukee, WI 53707

**Brian Michel**, Chief Operating Officer  
Mental Health America of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

**Kerry Riemer**, Controller  
Catholic Financial Life  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

June 2022

STUDY ASSIGNMENT: The study committee is directed to review the current protocols for investigating causes of death and reporting death, and the uniformity of those protocols. The review shall focus on options to implement more comprehensive uniform death reporting standards across Wisconsin, including the advantages and barriers to implementation of such standards. Following review, the committee shall develop legislation to provide minimum requirements for death investigations and reporting, particularly deaths involving homicide, suicide, child or infant death, domestic violence, maternal mortality, and substance use.

MEMBERS: 2 Senators; 2 Representatives; and 7 Public Members.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF: Amber Otis, Senior Staff Attorney, Kelly McGraw, Staff Attorney, Annie Gonring, Legal Intern, and Kelly Mautz, Administrative Staff.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY COMMITTEE ON WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PROCEDURES

**Chair Tony Kurtz**, Representative  
Wonewoc, WI 53968

**Melissa Agard**, Senator  
Madison, WI 53704

**Autumn Carroll**, Army Veteran  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

**Adam Gerol**, District Attorney  
Ozaukee County Justice Center  
Port Washington, WI 53074

**Melissa Inlow**, District Attorney  
Clark County  
Neillsville, WI 54456

**Daniel Riemer**, Representative  
Milwaukee, WI 53215

**Vice Chair Eric Wimberger**, Senator  
Green Bay, WI 54301

**Amy Arenz**, Founder/CEO  
Concero  
Madison, WI 53703

**Jacob Curtis**, Assistant Staff Judge Advocate  
115th FW  
Grafton, WI 53024

**Gabriela Guzman**  
OSJA/WI National Guard  
De Pere, WI 54115

**Jade La Sage**, Veteran  
US Marine Corp  
Johnson Creek, WI 53028

June 2022

**STUDY ASSIGNMENT:** The study committee is directed to study the Wisconsin National Guard's procedures for investigating and addressing sexual misconduct. The committee shall review the findings and recommendations contained in previously completed investigations into the Wisconsin National Guard's procedures, with a particular focus on the National Guard Bureau Office of Complex Investigation's assessment of the Wisconsin National Guard's sexual assault and harassment reporting procedures, investigation protocols, and accountability measures. The committee is directed to recommend legislation that enhances oversight of the Wisconsin National Guard as it relates to sexual misconduct, ensures state law complies with relevant federal requirements, and amends the Wisconsin Code of Military Justice where necessary.

**11 MEMBERS:** 2 Representatives; 2 Senators; and 7 Public Members.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF:** David Moore, Senior Staff Attorney, Tom Koss, Staff Attorney, Alex Witz, Legal Intern, and Kelly Mautz, Administrative Staff.