

**MINUTES OF THE MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE**  
**LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE MEETING**  
**April 22, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular quarterly meeting of the Legislative Task Force was held on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 and called to order by Janice Falkenberg at 12:00 p.m. via Google Hangouts.

**A. ROLL CALL:**

**Members Present:**

Janice Falkenberg, Bohdan Zachary, Laurie Kohel, Richard Busalacchi, Charles Bruders

**Guests:**

Ramie Zelenkova of Hubbard, Wilson, & Zelenkova, LLC

**Members Absent:**

Equan Burrows, Mark Foley, Dr. Vicki Martin

**B. COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW**

The Legislative Task Force meeting was noticed to be in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 22, 2020 MEETING**

Minutes were approved by consensus of all members.

**D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**1. Legislative Update**

**a. Local**

- The City and County of Milwaukee remain under the Stay at Home order through the end of May.

**b. State**

**General:** The Legislature passed a \$392.4 million package that would cut income taxes, expand a property tax break for businesses and reduce state debt, if signed by the Governor. The package would reduce income taxes by \$247.7 for an average cut of \$106 for calendar year 2020. Governor Evers had previously announced a special session to fund K-12 education at approximately the same level – about \$251.9 million – to fund special education costs, mental health, and equalization aid. GOP leaders rejected that call. Governor Evers vetoed the legislation.

**Senate Bill 16/Assembly Bill 23 (Feyen/Ballweg):** 2013 Wisconsin Act 59 established a grant program to promote career and technical education programs in high schools. The intent of this

act was to identify industries and occupations that face workforce shortages, approve industry recognized certification programs that will address the workforce shortages, and to grant awards of \$1000 per pupil to school districts for each completed, industry-recognized certification program completed. On May 16 the Joint Committee on Finance approved similar language bringing new base funding level for the program to \$6,500,000.

**Senate Bill 17/Assembly Bill 13 (Feyen/Rohrkaste):** This legislation creates a new arm of Fast Forward with \$2 million in funding over the biennium to provide grants to non-profits and institutions of higher education to create and administer upskilling programs to unemployed or under-employed individuals. The legislation prohibits non-profits and higher education institutions receiving upskilling funding from charging participants tuition or program fees in excess of 10% of the cost of administering the program to ensure that students have skin in the game without being priced out of participation. Passage was recommended by Senate Committee 5-0; bill available for scheduling in the Senate. Public hearing held in the Assembly.

**Senate Bill 39/Assembly Bill 33 (Darling/Risser/Steffen/Goyke):** Expungement reform legislation. The legislation will eliminate the state mandate on judges to grant/deny expungement at the time of sentencing; Current law is very ambiguous on the matter of disclosure requirements relating to expunged records. This bill clarifies this matter so that employees and employers have a clear understanding of their respective requirements; only low-level offenders are eligible for expungement; clearly defines what it means to successfully complete a sentence, which includes completing community services, paying all fines, fees, restitution, and completing any community supervision without revocation; Wisconsin is one of only four states to have an age limit. This bill removes the 25 years of age limit in order to focus on individuals that have successfully completed their sentence and have not reoffended. Both bills received public hearings. The bill was amended and passed in the Senate Committee 4-1, and the Assembly Committee 9-1. The bill passed the Assembly via a voice vote and is available for scheduling in the Senate.

**Senate Bill 44/Assembly Bill 36 (Jacque/Murphy):** Tools of the Trade Apprenticeship Program Expansion. The legislation provides the Wisconsin Technical College System Board with an additional \$100,000 per academic year to assist technical college students who have undertaken apprenticeship training courses in conjunction with instruction at their schools. Each individual student who qualifies is eligible to receive up to \$1,000, which must be used to assist in paying for materials and expenses associated with the apprenticeship training program, including tools, clothing, equipment, and supplies. The Technical College System Board is required to establish an application process and criteria for awarding these grants. The existing Tools of the Trade program is privately funded for the system by the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation and dispenses \$200,000 annually in grants. Public hearings held in both houses. An amendment from the author has been introduced. The amendment increases the grant to \$1,500 and establishes additional criteria a student must meet. The bill passed the Senate unanimously on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Assembly action is pending.

**Senate Bill 25/Assembly Bill 22 (Thiesfeldt/Johnson)** Requires commercial vehicle driver education courses offered by technical colleges or licensed private driver schools to provide instruction in the recognition and prevention of human trafficking. Passage recommended by the Assembly Committee 13-0. The bill passed the full Assembly and Senate via voice vote. The Governor signed the bill into law on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Senate Bill 165/Assembly Bill 189 (Stroebel/Born)** relating to transferability of courses between WTCS, the UW System, private and tribally controlled colleges. The bill received hearings in the respective Senate and Assembly committees. Under current law the BOR and WCTS must enter into and implement an agreement that identifies at least 30 credits of core general education courses that are transferable between and within institutions. The bill was amended and the District Boards Association was supportive of the amendment. As amended the bill expands the list of universally accepted general education courses from a minimum of 30 credits to a minimum of 72 credits, and requires a joint report to the Legislature program to program articulation agreements from UW to WTCS. The Governor signed the bill into law on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Senate Bill 142/Assembly Bill 161 (Kooyenga/James)** relating to late payment of tuition benefits for student veterans enrolled in the University of Wisconsin System or a technical college. This bill would prohibit a technical college from taking adverse action against a student veteran whose financial aid package includes federal veterans tuition benefits as a result of the college's failure to receive payment of these benefits by the tuition deadline. The bill passed the Senate and the Assembly and is awaiting action by the Governor. The Governor signed the bill into law on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Senate Bill 342/Assembly Bill 371 (Jacque/Murphy)** relating to uniform course numbering and the transfer of course credits among technical colleges and University of Wisconsin System. The bill received a public hearing in the Assembly.

**Senate Bill 358/Assembly Bill 388 (Hansen/Shankland)** appropriates \$11,000,000 in the 2019-21 biennium for state aid for the technical college system.

**Senate Bill 359/Assembly Bill 390 (Hansen/Shankland)** increases the Higher Educational Aids Board's biennial appropriation for Wisconsin Grants by \$18,000,000 for technical college students in each year of the 2019-21 biennium.

**Senate Bill 481/Assembly Bill 536 (Feyen/Nygren)** establishes a career advancement scholarship program within the Higher Educational Aids Board. Eligible individuals must be least 25 years old, do not have a postsecondary credential, and are not enrolled, but intend to enroll, in an eligible institution. Other criteria will apply. The bill defines "eligible institution" as a technical college, a University of Wisconsin System institution, an in-state tribal college, or a private nonprofit institution of higher education that is headquartered in this state. Assembly hearing December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Senate Bill 505/Assembly Bill 524 (Olsen/Oldenburger)** creates a \$100,000 appropriation to make farmer tuition assistance grants to low-income farmers for courses on farm and business management techniques offered by a technical college. A current or prospective applicant can receive no more than \$1,000 per year for no more than three years. The bill was recommended 15-0 out of committee and passed 95-0 in the Assembly. Senate action pending.

**Senate Bill 518/Assembly Bill 576 (Kooyenga/VanderMeer)** relating to requirements for funeral director apprenticeships and licenses. Amended and passed Assembly Committee 9-0; Senate Committee 5-0. Signed into law on March 4, 2020.

**Senate Bill 403/Assembly Bill 444 (Kapenga/Horlacher)** relating to free expression within the

University of Wisconsin System and Wisconsin Technical College System. Assembly Committee vote 8-6. Senate Committee vote 4-3. Passed Assembly 62-37; Senate floor action is pending. All indications suggest this is a bill the Governor would veto if passed by the legislature.

**Senate Bill 612/Assembly Bill 670** increases the minimum retirement age under the WRS from 55 to 59.5 and first applies to individuals under age 40 on the bill's effective date. The bill would also allow an annuitant who is hired by a WRS employer to elect not to suspend his or her annuity, for no more than 36 months, and reduces the waiting period to 45 days for recent retirees who return to covered employment as a participating employee. Recommended for passage 3-2 by the Senate Committee; 8-6 by the Assembly Committee. Floor action pending.

**c. Federal**

- No updates at this time.

**E. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. via Google Hangouts

**F. ADJOURNEMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.