

**MINUTES OF THE MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
January 19, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

The quarterly meeting of the Legislative Task Force was held on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, and called to order by Janice Falkenberg at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing.

A. ROLL COLL:

Members Present:

Janice Falkenberg, Vicki Martin, Lauren Baker, Erich Zeimantz, Equan Burrows, Jennifer Mikulay, Bohdan Zachary, Charles Bruders

Guests:

Ramie Zelenkova of Hubbard, Wilson, & Zelenkova, LLC

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 NOVEMBER 19, 2021 MEETING

Minutes were approved by consensus of all members.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legislative Update

a. Local

- Mayoral election upcoming.

b. State

- **Wisconsin Assembly Bill 635/Senate Bill 605** relating to resident tuition at technical colleges and the UW System as applied to relocated service members and their children and spouses. Assembly hearing; Senate hearing.
- **Wisconsin Assembly Bill 675/Senate Bill 662** relating to natural immunity to COVID-19 in lieu of proof of vaccination or test. Assembly committee recommended passage; Senate hearing.
- **Foster Youth Bill** - This bill requires the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System and technical college system district boards to grant tuition remissions to students who were in foster care or other placements out of their parent's home. This bill also requires the Department of Children and Families to distribute \$120,000 in grants to UW and Wisconsin Technical College System institutions for programs for former foster youth. The bill also makes an appropriation to the Higher Educational Aids Board to reimburse the Board of Regents and

technical college district boards for remissions granted under the bill. If the appropriation is not sufficient to make full reimbursement, HEAB must prorate the reimbursements.

- On November 3, 2021, the House filed a revised version of the Build Back Better Act following the continued negotiations on legislative language. The revised version of the \$1.75 trillion budget reconciliation measure will bring needed workforce and higher education investment to the State.
- **Redistricting:** State and federal legislative elections will be contested under new maps in 2022. The Republican-controlled legislature passed its version of the maps late last year, and they were promptly vetoed by the Governor, who is seeking to have his own version of the maps adopted and implemented by a court. There are cases pending in both state and federal court, with the Wisconsin State Supreme Court expected to rule first, early this year. Candidates for both state and federal offices in 2022 can start circulating nomination papers on April 15th, so election officials are hoping for a timely resolution to this once-in-a-decade partisan battle.
- **Election Investigation:** Speaker Vos appointed defeated State Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman to review Wisconsin's 2020 election and recommend changes to him for 2022 Election by the end of February. Expect the Governor to veto any legislation. The Senate has conducted its own review primarily relying on the Legislative Audit Bureau and a report from conservative think-tank Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty and is not expected to wait for Gableman's report before pursuing legislation.
- **Fixing Foundations Housing Initiative:** Legislative Republicans circulated a package of legislation aimed to improve affordable housing. Highlights include:
 - Local Housing Investment Fund (LHIF) would allow municipalities the option to establish a local funding option by the increased property tax revenue attributable to the development or improvement of dwelling units on properties designated by the municipality. Introduced as Assembly Bill 609. Voice vote in the Assembly; Senate action pending.
 - Updates to Zoning and Permitting Processes and certification of shove-ready projects. Introduced as Assembly Bill 603/Senate Bill 629. Voice vote in the Assembly; Senate action pending.
 - Prohibiting Certain Property Tax Assessment Practices including prohibiting mortgage appraisals, projected rents, or list and asking prices to determine fair market value. Introduced as Assembly Bill 610/Senate Bill 630. Voice vote in the Assembly; Senate action pending.
 - Low-interest or no-interest loans for the rehabilitation of certain residential properties. Introduced as Assembly Bill 607. Voice vote in the Assembly; Senate action pending.
 - Sales tax exemption for materials used to construct workforce housing developments and rehabilitation projects. Introduced as Assembly Bill 606/Senate Bill 631. Voice vote in the Assembly; Senate action pending.
 - Require political subdivisions to use a certain portion of ARPA dollars toward workforce housing projects. Introduced as Assembly Bill 605. Assembly passage 59-35; Senate action pending.
 - Pay for performance grants for homelessness initiatives. Introduced as Assembly Bill 604. Assembly passage 55-39; Senate action pending.

- **Reaching for Higher Education Package:** Legislative Democrats circulated a package of legislation aimed to make higher education more affordable. Highlights include:
 - Increases funding for Wisconsin Grants for technical college students by \$11,800,000 in each year of the 2021-23 biennium. Senate Bill 633/Assembly Bill 649.
 - Increases funding for state aid for technical colleges by \$15,750,000 in each year of the 2021-23 biennium. Senate Bill 634/Assembly Bill 648
- Assembly Speaker’s Task Force on Racial Disparities: Subcommittee on Education and Economic Development Report (Higher Education Items)
 - Increase the number of low-cost college credits earned by students of color while in high school. The recommendation includes improved outreach efforts to inform students of existing programs to earn postsecondary credits. The subcommittee further recommends creating incentives for high school teachers to obtain credentials to tech concurrent enrollment courses for postsecondary credit. The subcommittee further recommending methods to improve transferability of credits between WTCS and UW System.
 - Encourage and facilitate completion of FAFSA. The recommendation is to require school districts to provide FAFSA training and assistance to students and families during grades 11 or 12. The subcommittee also recommends standards for school counselors incorporate FAFSA completion support for families and students.
 - Incentivize individuals to obtain credentials in high-needs areas. The subcommittee recommends creating incentives to obtain credential in high need areas and aimed toward people of color. The incentives could include grants to fully cover licensing application fees, scholarships to cover tuition and costs for required education and training, or loan forgiveness programs.
- **Public Safety Package:** Legislative Republicans unveiled a package of bills aimed at public safety and law enforcement at the beginning of January. There is one bill of interest: Wisconsin Assembly Bill 836/Senate Bill 847 relating to technical college police academy programs. The legislation requires the Technical College System Board to work with technical colleges to establish part-time police academy programs offered by at least two technical colleges by January 1, 2023 and must distribute to the selected technical colleges for these programs \$1,000,000 in moneys received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that the governor is required under the bill to allocate for this purpose.
- **2022 Elections:** All 99 seats of the State Assembly and the odd number seats in the 33-member State Senate are up for reelection. While there will be competitive races, Republicans will maintain legislative control of both houses. In the State Senate there is a possibility that Republicans could pick up two more seats, giving them a veto-proof majority. That is not expected in the State Assembly.

c. Federal

- House Democrats passed the Build Back Better Act, but with lack of consensus among all 50 Democratic Senators on passage the bill is currently stalled. The U.S. Supreme Court issued opinions in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Occupational Safety and

Health Administration (OSHA) vaccination requirement cases. The preliminary injunctions against enforcement of the CMS interim final rule have been stayed, **meaning that CMS can enforce its IFR nationwide**; and OSHA does not have the authority to mandate vaccines for large employers, and thus the OSHA vaccine mandate for large employers cannot be enforced.

E. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom

F. ADJOURNEMENT

Janice Falkenberg moved, Lauren Baker seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.