

**GWAAR Board Meeting  
Advocacy Update  
April 10, 2026**

**The 2025–2026 Wisconsin Legislature**

The 107<sup>th</sup> Session of the Wisconsin Legislature officially concluded their regular session legislative work on March 17. The Legislature is not expected to come back to the floor except to possibly vote on a tax relief passage in a Special Session (called by the Governor) or an Extraordinary Session (called by the Legislature). Governor Evers also signed [Executive Order #285](#), calling the Wisconsin Legislature into special session on April 14, 2026. The purpose of the special session is to consider and act upon a [proposed constitutional amendment](#) banning partisan gerrymandering in drawing state legislative districts. The legislature is not scheduled to return for a full new session until January 4, 2027.

Over the course of the 107th Wisconsin Legislative Session, 1185 bills were introduced in the Senate, and 1238 bills were introduced in the Assembly. To date, the Governor signed 199 bills into law and vetoed (or partially vetoed) 70. Many bills, including some of the aging network's priorities, failed to pass before the end of the session and are now officially considered *dead* (a legislative proposal that has ceased to move forward in the lawmaking process and has no immediate chance of becoming law during that legislative session). A few aging network priorities were signed into law this session and one bill we hoped wouldn't pass, did. Here is a list of some of the bills impacting older Wisconsinites and family caregivers that were signed into law:

**Signed into Law this Session**

• **Legislation Providing Needed State Funding for FoodShare Signed into Law**



On March 23, 2026, Governor Evers signed [AB 180](#) (as amended) into law – [2025 Wisconsin Act 116](#). This legislation was approved by the State Senate on March 17 and by the State Assembly in February. Though AB 180 also imposes extra restrictions on what can be purchased with FoodShare benefits, this legislation became the vehicle to ensure that the much-needed funding (\$72 million) for the program could be secured, the additional costs imposed by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act would be available, and the delivery of essential services would continue while safeguarding Wisconsin taxpayers.



• **Governor Evers Signed SB 152 – AFCSP Bill into law (2025 Wisconsin Act 21)**



Early last Aug. 2025, the Governor signed SB 152 into law. This legislation removed income requirements for the Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) to align with the federal National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). Removing income-based

eligibility requirements from AFCSP protected up to \$3.5 million in annual federal NFCSP funding and ensured support remains accessible to low- and middle-income Wisconsin families.

- **Governor Signs AB 424 Rental of Mobile & Manufactured Homes into Law**



In late December 2025, the Governor sign [AB 424](#) into law (2025 Wisconsin Act 67). This legislation requires that leases be in writing and strengthens housing stability by **increasing notice requirements when a site is shutting down from 5-14 days to at least 90 days.**

- **Governor Evers Signs Admissions Consent/Patient Representative Bill into Law**



On March 20, 2026, Governor Evers signed [AB 598](#) (as amended) into law - [2025 Wisconsin Act 115](#). On the final day of its general-business floor period this session (3/17/26), the State Senate passed this legislation which creates an alternative to the guardianship process by allowing patient representatives (next-of-kin) to consent to admissions to certain health care facilities without requiring a petition for guardianship or protective placement. The amended bill also includes hospital price transparency language. The bill was approved by the State Assembly in February. The legislation **goes into effect on June 1, 2026**. This law is set to end three years after the effect date. Survival Coalition and the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network put out a [statement](#) to the press sharing their **concerns about the bill**.

- **Governor Evers Signs Income Tax Subtraction for Fraud Losses Bill into Law**



On April 3, 2026, [AB 685](#) (relating to individual income tax subtractions for losses due to financial exploitation) was signed into law by Governor Evers. This legislation creates a subtraction for financial exploitation losses in state tax law to ensure that those meeting the specific criteria outlined in the bill would not be subjected to additional financial losses from financial penalties related to what would otherwise be considered a taxable event (such as withdrawals from retirement accounts) in state income tax law.

### **Not Quite a Law Yet – Pending the Governor’s Signature**


**Several additional bills GWAAR supported** that also passed both houses were sent to the Governor on April 2, 2026 and **are waiting for the Governor’s action**. These bills include:

- The following **housing-related bills** supported by GWAAR have been enrolled and are awaiting action from the Governor:


- [AB 182](#) (relating to changes to the low-income housing tax credit [LIHTC] – This legislation requires the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) to set aside at least 35% of its annual LIHTC allocations for qualified projects in *rural* areas and expands the number of future projects that



qualify by removing the requirement that LIHTC projects be financed by tax-exempt bonds.

- [AB 194](#) (relating to modifications to housing programs under WHEDA) – This legislation removes barriers to participation by permitting the Infrastructure Access Program, Restore Main Street Program and Vacancy-to-Vitality Program to access loans *and* use historic tax credits or tax incremental financing (TIF) (referred to as stacking which is currently prohibited). The legislation also allows loans to be secured by personal guarantees *and* corporate guarantees. Additionally, to improve participation in the three programs enacted last session to address Wisconsin’s housing shortage, the bills makes specific changes to the individual programs and increases the cap set for the percentage of a developers project cost to 33% and makes changes to the dollar cap set for the programs to further incentivize developers and local governments interest in the loans. 

- The following **financial exploitation-related bill** supported by GWAAR has also been enrolled and is awaiting action from the Governor:

- [AB-968 Cryptocurrency Kiosk Bill](#) (part of the Speaker’s Task Force on Elder Services legislative package) - On the final day of its regular floor session (3/17/26), **the Wisconsin State Senate unanimously passed the Cryptocurrency Kiosk Bill (AB-968)** to protect residents, particularly older Wisconsinites, from fraud by regulating crypto kiosks and enabling refunds for scam victims. Investigations of crypto kiosk use revealed that more than 9 in 10 are fraudulent. Though a substitute amendment to the bill (approved in mid-February) eliminated any caps placed on transaction fees (some currently as high as 30%), this legislation protects the hard-earned money of Wisconsinites by: 

- ❖ Setting daily transaction limits at \$1,000
- ❖ Requiring cryptocurrency kiosk operators to provide users with receipts
- ❖ Implementing consumer identification measures for every transaction
- ❖ Allowing scam victims to receive refunds

**More Work to Be Done**

With the last regular floor period now completed, several GWAAR and Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) priorities did not get across the finish line or failed to be introduced. Some of the priorities are funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), adult protective services, elder benefit specialist counseling, falls prevention initiatives, family caregiver support/training, the Guardianship Support Center, home-

delivered meal services, long-term care ombudsman services, Parkinson’s Disease registry, transportation services, improvements to voting access and training of poll workers, and workforce supports for direct care workers. Priorities without specific funding needs include caregiver designation in electronic records (DOT), requirements for the use of “memory care” designation, insurance protections for volunteer drivers, and protection of voting rights. **Advocacy efforts on these proposals will need to continue to get them included in the next biennial budget (2027-2029) or taken up in the next legislative session beginning in Jan. 2027.**

### **Congress is in Recess: Connect with Your Federal Legislator to Boost Older Americans Act Funding**

Members of Congress are back in their home districts for a two-week recess through April 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a great time to reach out to U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, as well as your U.S. House Representative to schedule a site visit or a meeting at one of their local offices. Use the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network’s (WAAN’s) advocacy platform and editable email to urge your federal lawmakers to boost funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA) and to protect other critical aging services and programs in the FY 2027 appropriations process. TAKE ACTION: <https://bit.ly/4dqmCGt>

### **Save the Date Reminder: WAAN 2026 Aging Advocacy Day of Action**

Mark your calendars, on Wed., **May 6, 2026, from 1-2 p.m.**, the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) will host a “**Day of Action**” including a virtual training followed by an online campaign. We will use this day to celebrate Older Americans Month and lift priority aging network issues for the next budget and legislative session. Our day of action will be complemented by local, in-district meetings held by WAAN core members throughout the state. **Local meeting hosts are encouraged to schedule in-district meetings between late March and the end of October 2026.** Sponsorship information for these events is now available at: <https://gwaar.org/waan-day-of-action-2026>. Stay tuned for more information.

