



DANE COUNTY

Joe Parisi
County Executive

January 11, 2017

TO: Dane County Executive Joe Parisi, Dane County Chair Sharon Corrigan,
Dane County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Mickey Beil, Dane County Legislative Lobbyist

RE: Snapshot of New Legislative Session Activities

Last Tuesday was the Legislature's Inauguration Day and the Governor's State of the State Address was held yesterday. He will introduce his budget sometime before the end of January to mid-February.

My snapshot is based on media outlets, news articles and other sources.

In addition, Legislative Council Study Committees are wrapping up their work which will generate more legislation.

Please contact me with any questions.

Potential Budget Bill items

- \$10 million dollar back-to-school sales tax holiday
- Help former inmates enter workforce
- Find jobs for veterans, people with disabilities and former drug addicts
- Increase state park fees for campers, hikers, paddlers; and increase hunting/fishing licenses to address DNR deficit
- Increase broadband expansion/technology education programs by \$35 million on top of the \$16 million already earmarked
- Will not close Lincoln Hills-Copper Lake in budget and concerns with creating a new Milwaukee Juvenile Center
- Dismantle the DNR into smaller agencies
- Provide \$6.4 million per year for 16% judicial pay raises
- Increase District Attorneys salaries by \$4.8 million over two years

Potential Legislation

- Allow high capacity wells to be transferred, repaired and reconstructed without a new permit
- Eliminate the remaining prevailing wage provisions
- Repeal personal property tax
- Drug test public assistance recipients
- Construct toll roads to increase transportation funding
- Allow conceal & carry on college campuses

- Introduce Blue Lives Matter legislation
- Expand law enforcement role in child abuse & neglect
- Increase gas tax to fund transportation/highways
- Allow people with terminal illness access to "Right to Try" experimental drugs
- Improve existing CBD oil law (marijuana extract) to treat epileptic children
- Obtain medical marijuana by prescription
- Allow a wetland general permit for discharges from construction/maintenance activities within a drainage ditch.
- Prohibit local governments from hiring lobbyists
- Reform state retirement system by raising the retirement age from 55 to 60 years old and base benefits on 5 years instead of 3 years of highest salary

Special Session on Heroin

The Governor is encouraging state agency administrative actions and also introducing 11 bills to address the opioid crisis in Wisconsin. The bills include immunity for people who overdose and receive first responder services; civil commitment of drug addicts; create UW recovery charter school; allocate \$1 million per year for grants to new medically assisted treatment centers; \$500,000 in consultation service grants; \$420,000 per year to fund 4 new WIDOC criminal investigation agents; \$63,000 per year for rural hospital graduate medical training; \$100,000 per year to expand DPI intervention program; \$400,000 to create DHS hotline; \$50,000 for law enforcement/first responder "education kits"; provide \$150,000 to expand TAD program and increase funds for treatment courts; and \$261,000 for a pilot program to divert drug-related arrestees from the criminal justice system to the community for support services.

Other

- Request federal waiver to create sliding scale for newly employed public assistance recipients to decrease benefits as the new worker moves off of government assistance
- Reduce child support payments for wealthy parents
- Monitor potential fallout from federal Affordable Care Act repeal and make sure those receiving coverage do not fall through the cracks
- Visit Medicaid funding if future federal changes are enacted, like converting to block grants
- Give WI broader role in deciding how many refugees to take in and from which countries until federal screening process is improved
- Revise Clean Air Act to protect air quality without cumbersome regulations
- Restore WI authority to manage the gray wolf population
- Resolve Canadian Dairy Trade Protection policy so it doesn't hurt WI dairy industry
- Removed climate change language about human influence from the DNR website

Cc: Department Heads