

WAPA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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A. Recent Floor Activity

Although the Legislature is now in its interim period, it met on July 12 to conduct the limited business of passing four administrative bills. All four bills ratified contracts for state employees and were signed by Governor Doyle.

There are no other scheduled regular floorperiods until the end of the Legislature's biennial session in January 2007. As of the date of this Update, the Governor has acted upon 1,957 bills passed by both houses, signed 491 into law and vetoed 47 in their entirety.

B. 2006 Study Committees

In preparation for the interim period, the Joint Legislative Council established 19 study committees to study major issues in Wisconsin, including the following:

- **Affirmative Action**
- **Airport Authorities**
- **Applicability of Open Meetings Law to Quasi-Governmental Bodies**
- **Charter Schools**
- **Disaster Preparedness Planning**
- **District Attorney Funding and Administration**
- **Expunction of Criminal Records**
- **Great Lakes Water Resources Compact**
- **Highway Weight Limits**
- **Law Revision Committee**
- **Navigability and Draining Ditches**
- **Nuclear Power**
- **Placement of Sex Offenders**
- **Recod. of Ch. 21, Military Affairs**
- **Review of Crimes Against Children**
- **Review of State School Aid Formula**
- **State Trails Policy**
- **State-Tribal Relations**
- **Strengthening Wisconsin Families**
- **Uniform Debt Management Services**

The committees are comprised of legislators and citizens who are knowledgeable and/or passionate about the topics being studied. To review schedules of committee meetings, visit: http://folio.legis.state.wi.us/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=40441246&infobase=hearings.nfo&softpage=Browse_Frame_Pg
To request minutes of committee meetings, or other documents developed by the committee, visit: http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/3_COMMITTEES/Special%20Committees/2006/06subscripform.pdf

Of particular interest to WAPA members might be the two study groups looking into water usage. First, the *Great Lakes Water Resource Compact* study committee, Chaired by Senator Kedzie, is directed to develop legislation to ratify and implement the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact proposed by the governors of the Great Lakes states. To view a copy of the compact, visit:

<http://www.csg.org/programs/ncic/documents/greatlakescompact.pdf>

In developing this legislation, the committee must consider the need for new or modified water resource management strategies, including an integrated strategy that is based on the relationships between surface water, groundwater, and water-dependent natural resources and that addresses water quantity and quality issues in a coordinator manner.

Second, the study committee on *Navigability and Drainage Ditches*, chaired by Senator Lasee, will look at the definition of navigability, which currently is a combination of statutory references and Wisconsin court decisions. Some elements of the test of navigability are quantitative, or based on factual observations by the Department of Natural Resources. The committee is directed to review methods to clarify “navigability” as defined in the statutes and administrative rules, with a focus on how the definition of navigability impacts the regulation of drainage ditches and ditches with no stream history. The committee is to review the methods the DNR uses to determine navigability.

C. Update on Impact Fees

The Legislative Reference Bureau has released a Legislative Brief on the new laws affecting impact fees, as first reported in the June edition of Update. To review a copy of the LRB brief, visit: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/pubs/Lb/06Lb16.pdf>

D. Madison’s Inclusionary Zoning Law

On July 11, the Madison City Council passed a new inclusionary zoning law, bringing changes to the requirements for developers to build low-cost housing. Among those changes are the following:

- Individuals who purchase homes under the new law will earn equity based upon the amount of money they spend on the home, as opposed to how long they live there.
- Developers are able to request certain conditions to offset the cost of developing the low-cost housing, including reducing the minimum parking standards, allowing higher density projects and reduced street widths.
- Some cash subsidies will be available to developers under certain conditions.
- A new marketing model based upon the percentage of regular (i.e., not low-cost) units that sell.
- The city will have only a short amount of time to re-purchase a low-cost home that an owner is selling.
- The law sunsets in January of 2009.