



**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 2011**

Honorable Mayor and Common Council
City of West Allis, Wisconsin

The Legislative Committee met on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, to discuss proposed bills pending before the Wisconsin Legislature.

PRESENT: Ald. Richard Narlock
Paul Ziehler, City Administrative Officer, Clerk/Treasurer
Scott Post, City Attorney
Gary Schmid, Manager of Finance

EXCUSED: Mayor Dan Devine
Ald. Jim Sengstock

LEAGUE: 1-3

1. REVIEW OF NEW LEGISLATION

SS-AB1/ TORT REFORM
SS-SB1 No position.

SS-AB2/ CREATING A NONREFUNDABLE INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX
SS-SB2 CREDIT FOR CERTAIN AMOUNTS RELATING TO HEALTH SAVINGS
ACCOUNTS
No position, with comment (see footnote at the end of this section).

SS-AB3/ INCOME AND FRANCHISE TAX CREDIT FOR BUSINESSES
SS-SB3 RELOCATING TO WISCONSIN
No position, with comment (see footnote at the end of this section).

SS-AB4/ INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF CREDITS UNDER THE ECONOMIC
SS-SB4 DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM
No position, with comment (see footnote at the end of this section).

1. REVIEW OF NEW LEGISLATION Cont'd.

**SS-AB5/
SS-SB5** **REQUIRING EXTRAORDINARY VOTE TO PASS STATE TAX
INCREASES**
No position.

**SS-AB6/
SS-SB6** **CREATION OF WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.**
OPPOSE, because the bill would exempt the WEDC from municipal regulation relating to building materials used, permits, supervision of construction or installation, payment of permit fees, or other restrictions.

**SS-AB7/
SS-SB7** **SMALL BUSINESS INCOME AND FRANCHISE TAX CREDIT**
No position, with comment (see footnote at the end of this section).

**SS-AB8/
SS-SB8** **REGULATORY REFORM**
No position, but gubernatorial review should be expanded to rules governing agencies like MMSD.

SB8 **FEDERALIZING WISCONSIN'S FMLA**
FAVOR, because the bill would provide consistency between federal and state FMLA laws, eliminate the differences, thus improving administrative implementation, and remove some of the more favorable State FMLA provisions.

FOOTNOTE:

Even though the City's Legislative Committee is taking no position on these bills, it would like to point out that the new credits for business will further reduce State revenues, which will (1) increase the State budget gap more, (2) potentially reduce State aid to the City when future cuts are made, and (3) continue to shift more of the total tax burden from business to residential property owners.

2. REVIEW OF REFERRED LEGISLATION

None.

3. **OTHER**

a. The Legislative Committee used this meeting as an organizational meeting for the new two-year State Biennial Session (2011-2012). Among the matters reviewed and discussed were the following:

- 1.) 2011-2012 Session Calendar Schedule.
- 2.) List of State Assembly and Senate Members.
- 3.) Governor Walker's Executive Order for the Special Session of the Legislature.
- 4.) New bills for consideration by both Republican and Democratic lawmakers for the new session.
- 5.) League of Wisconsin Municipalities' Legislative Agenda for the 2011-12 Legislative Session.
- 6.) Milwaukee County legislative and budget priorities for the 2011-12 Legislative Session.

b. The Legislative Committee then spent considerable time developing the City's legislative ideas for the 2011-12 State Biennial Session. The City's legislative package will be submitted to the Common Council for its approval under separate cover for the February 1, 2011 meeting.

c. Voter Law Changes (SB6)

The Legislative Committee also discussed Senate Bill 6, which deals with changes to voting laws specifically as they relate to Voter ID's (photo requirements and related matters). Based on the preliminary analysis by the City's Legislative Committee, its initial point of view is to not oppose or favor the bill but rather point out some problems with the bill as drafted and recommend some amendments/changes to address those problems.

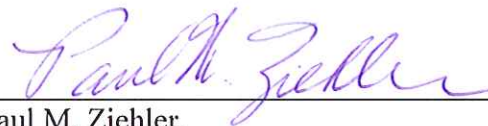
The problems with the bill are as follows:

- 1.) Limited type of photo ID acceptable.
- 2.) Conformance of name variations, standards of review.
- 3.) Photo ID applicability for disabled, homebound, nursing home residents, etc.
- 4.) Increased use of provisional ballots.
- 5.) Photo ID requirements for absentee voter process.
- 6.) Applicability of Photo ID to confidentially protected voters.
- 7.) Funding for state and local training.
- 8.) Funding for informational outreach at state and local levels.
- 9.) Quick, early implementation date.
- 10.) Definition and use of "valid" Photo ID for driver's license if expired, cancelled, etc.
- 11.) Possible discontinuance of corroboration procedures.
- 12.) Possible discontinuance of same day registration.

The recommended amendments/changes to address the above-listed problems (in same numerical order) are as follows:

- 1.) Expand type of Photo ID's accepted to include passports, college ID's, and other photo ID's issued by other units of government including counties and municipalities.
- 2.) Accept Photo ID's of reasonable similarity and resemblance.
- 3.) Continue same, current process for disabled, homebound, and nursing home residents which would, in effect, exempt such from photo ID requirements.
- 4.) Consider alternatives to use of provisional ballots such as certificates and affidavits, or at a minimum, extend photo acceptance to second day after the election.
- 5.) Eliminate photo ID requirements for mailed absentee ballot process or with the assistance of special voting deputies; eliminate requirement for maintenance of photo file copies.
- 6.) Exempt from and elimination of recordkeeping and open records request for confidentially protected voters.
- 7.) Provide full funding for training for state election officials and local election officials.
- 8.) Provide full funding for informational outreach at state and local levels.
- 9.) Delay implementation of effective date of new bill provisions until 2012 elections.
- 10.) Allow use and acceptance for photo ID purposes: DOT issued driver's license even if expired or cancelled, alternative certificates and affidavits.
- 11.) Continue use of corroboration with integration with photo ID requirements and proof of residency.
- 12.) Continue use of same day registration with integration with photo ID requirements and proof of residency.

d. Special Note: The Legislative Committee noted and expressed concern about the need to act very quickly this biennium in regards to proposed bills. We are not likely to have the lead time necessary to comment in advance of proposed bills given the fast track of the Republican-controlled State House, the Assembly and the Senate, on moving new, proposed legislation to passed law. The Legislative Committee feels and recommends that it needs to be able to provide comments on proposed bills almost immediately and prior to periodic reports being presented to the Common Council through the Advisory Committee.



Paul M. Ziehler,
City Administrative Officer, Clerk/Treasurer