2023-24 Legislative Session
SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Shared Revenue
- Brewers
- Education Funding
- Redistricting
- Alcohol Reform
- Protective Status for County Jailers
POLICY ITEMS REMAINING

- Medical Marijuana
- Tax Cuts
- Redistricting
- Utility/ Transmission Issue
- Abortion
- Electric Vehicle Charging
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SESSION DAYS REMAINING
LOOKING FORWARD

- Budget Surplus
- Mental Health
- Transportation
- Court Funding
- Political Composition
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Waiver of IMD Restriction
BACKGROUND

• DHS administers MA program

• States are unable to get reimbursed if more than 16 beds (IMD)

• IMD exclusion creates barriers for receiving care

• Services provided at facilities with less than 16 beds, or paid for by counties

• Since 2018, Feds allowed states to submit waiver
AB 616/ SB 635

• Require DHS to seek a federal waiver to allow federal Medicaid reimbursement for mental health treatment services in facilities considered IMDs

• Positive Impacts:
  • Providing funding to make it more sustainable for hospitals to maintain psych beds
  • Reduce demand on Mendota and Winnebago mental health institutes
  • Significant cost savings for counties
  • By supporting more beds in hospitals and centers, the waiver will reduce the amount of time law enforcement spends
CURRENT STATUS

- Passed Assembly on voice vote
- Passed Senate voice vote
- Waiting for Governor
XYLAZINE
TEST STRIPS
• Non-opioid vet tranquilizer linked to overdoses nationwide

• Xylazine can be particularly dangerous when mixed with opioids like fentanyl

• Xylazine dampens heart and respiratory function, like Fentanyl, resulting in overdose

• Overdoses from Xylazine are as deadly as Fentanyl and harder to treat because it is not an opioid, meaning that Narcan does not reverse its effects
AB 950/SB 875

- Bill would exclude Xylazine test strips from the state’s definition of “drug paraphernalia” which would allow for distribution

- Civil or criminal liability protection for those who distribute test strips
CURRENT STATUS

- Senate committee voted
- Assembly committee hearing
  February 1, 2024
CRISIS NOW

Crisis Urgent Care and Observation Facilities
BACKGROUND

- Severe mental health crisis goes to Winnebago
- Crisis Now:
  1. “Someone to talk to” – 988 or County Crisis Lines
  2. “Someone to respond” – Mobile Crisis Response Teams; and
  3. “A safe place to go” – Crisis Urgent Care and Observation Facilities
- ‘23-25 budget: $10M in grants to operate
SB 462/AB 467

- CUCOF framework is “a safe place to go”
- Smaller, more effective regional facilities
- Helping people recover in a safe, calming space close to home
- Designed for short term stays with local follow up services
CURRENT STATUS

- Introduced September 11
- Hearing on November 1
- Passed Senate floor on voice vote November 14
- Waiting to go to Assembly floor
PSYCHIATRIC RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITIES
BACKGROUND

• Out-of-state placements for children in need of mental health treatment are on the rise

• PRTFs typically treat youth diagnosed with severe psychiatric conditions, such as:
  • Bipolar disorder
  • Disruptive behavior disorders
  • Substance use disorders
  • Severe emotional disturbance
  • Post-traumatic stress disorder

• Keeping children close to families leads to better outcomes
SB 913/AB 1003

• Creates statutory authority for DHS to create PRTF and submit Medicaid plan amendment
• Requires DHS to request $500,000 annually in the next budget to implement regulations
CURRENT STATUS

- Introduced on January 11
- Hearing in Senate on Feb 1, 2024
- Need a hearing in the Assembly committee
LIKE-KIN

LEGISLATION
BACKGROUND

• Kinship care: program created to help support a child who cannot live with their parents
  • Many relatives need financial assistance
  • An alternative to foster care
• Without kinship benefits, many relatives cannot afford placement
• Bill defines "like-kin" as someone with a significant emotional relationship

• Allows a court to place a child with unlicensed individual if they qualify as “like-kin”

• Bill allows first cousins once removed and like-kin persons to receive kinship care

• Changes the term used to refer to these persons from “kinship care relatives” to “kinship care providers”
CURRENT STATUS

- Hearings in both houses and passed
- Passed senate floor
- No action in the assembly at this time
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS
ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
BACKGROUND

• In November 2021, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was signed, designating $7.5 billion to building out a national network of electric vehicle charging stations.

• The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program lays the groundwork for formula funding designation and use.

• NEVI is specifically intended to build out the electric vehicle charging system along federally designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs).

• WI has received approval from the U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for its plan to expand its electric vehicle charging stations under the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program.
SB 792/ AB 847

- Allows private sector businesses to construct and sell electricity by the kilowatt hour
- The private sector businesses will not be considered a utility for this purpose
- The private sector businesses must purchase power for this type of re-sale from a utility
- The private sector can sell all levels of charging – Levels 1-3+
- The public sector is prohibited from constructing Level 3+ charging except for their own fleet
- The public sector may continue to own level 1 and 2 charging stations
- The public sector cannot sell level 3 EV charging, but they can lease property to a private entity to own and operate level 3 EV charging on public property
- Collects and distributes excise tax of $.03 per kilowatt hour into the Transportation Fund for parity with the gas tax
CURRENT STATUS

- Passed the senate with bipartisan support
- No Assembly action taken at this time
WORK ZONE
SAFETY
INSTRUCTION
• According to the DOT, WI has nearly 2,000 work zone crashes a year
  • Drivers and passengers make up the majority of work zone accidents and deaths

• Reduced speed limits have not deterred those from driving too fast or from being inattentive in a work zone
  • Penalties for careless driving in work zone include: enhanced speeding ticket prices; potential incarceration for hurting someone in a work zone; and loss of life (the workers and the drivers)

• Current statutes have no requirements for work zone safety training in driver’s education
• Under the bill, all approved driver education courses must acquaint each student with the hazards posed by highway work zones and provide at least 30 minutes of instruction in safely dealing with these hazards

• The bill also requires DOT to determine the educational materials to be used in the work zone safety instruction
CURRENT STATUS

- Senate Bill 591 passed out of the Senate committee 5-0
- Senate Bill 591 passed the full Senate on a voice vote
- No Assembly action taken at this time
CAMERAS IN HIGHWAY WORK ZONES
BACKGROUND

• Ongoing incidents in work zones require more options for law enforcement to properly investigate those accidents

• Advancements in technology allow for the uses of cameras in these work zones

• Use of camera footage in highway work zones will reduce the reliance of second-hand information should an incident in the work zone occur and a police report be filed
SB 614/ AB 651

• The bill authorizes a county, city, town, or village to install and maintain cameras in highway work zones for the purpose of capturing video or photographic evidence of traffic accidents and other violations of the law

• Only law enforcement may access the evidence captured by a camera only if a police report is filed in connection with a traffic accident or other violation

• Evidence captured by a camera may not otherwise be used to determine compliance with any state law or local ordinance
CURRENT STATUS

- Senate Committee held a public hearing on January 17, 2024
- No action taken in the Assembly at this time
AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT & LAND USE
BACKGROUND

• Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large, complex group of synthetic chemicals that have been used in consumer products around the world since about the 1950s

• PFAS are found in common everyday products
SB 312/ AB 312

- Seeks to provide tools to local governments to mitigate the problem
- Also provides a regulatory framework to limit DNR activity and protect property owners from lawsuits
- This bill incorporates several programs and requirements relating to PFAS
CURRENT STATUS

- Passed the Senate on party lines
- Public hearing held in the Assembly
PERSONNEL, FINANCE & COUNTY ORGANIZATION
UW REDEVELOPMENT GRANT
BACKGROUND

- Four two-year campuses closing:
  - UW Platteville at Richland Center,
  - UW Milwaukee at Washington County, and
  - UW Oshkosh at Fond du Lac
  - UW Green Bay at Marinette

- UW provides the education, but the buildings and land are owned by the county

- Concern with building and land use after UW closes
• Legislation (as amended) would provide $20 million to be distributed to counties with two-year campus closures
  • 20% match will be required

• Currently four campuses closing but likely more in the future
  • Richland County, Fond du Lac County, Washington County, and Marinette would receive grants first before any other political subdivision in need
AB 540 had a public hearing in the Committee on Colleges and Universities

SB 518 was voted out of the Committee on Economic Development and Technical Colleges 6-0
JUDICIAL & PUBLIC SAFETY
INTEROPERABILITY GRANT
BACKGROUND

- Statewide interoperable radio system WISCOM is out of date and requires a system upgrade
- RFP was awarded to L3 Harris Technologies Inc in August 2022
- Estimated implementation time will be 7 years
AB 219/ SB 218

- Legislation would provide grant dollars for local radio upgrades
- First 4 years, 70% of grant funds must go to daily users of the WISCOM system
- JFC provided funds in the budget
CURRENT STATUS

- Passed Assembly on voice vote
- Passed Senate voice vote
- Waiting for Governor