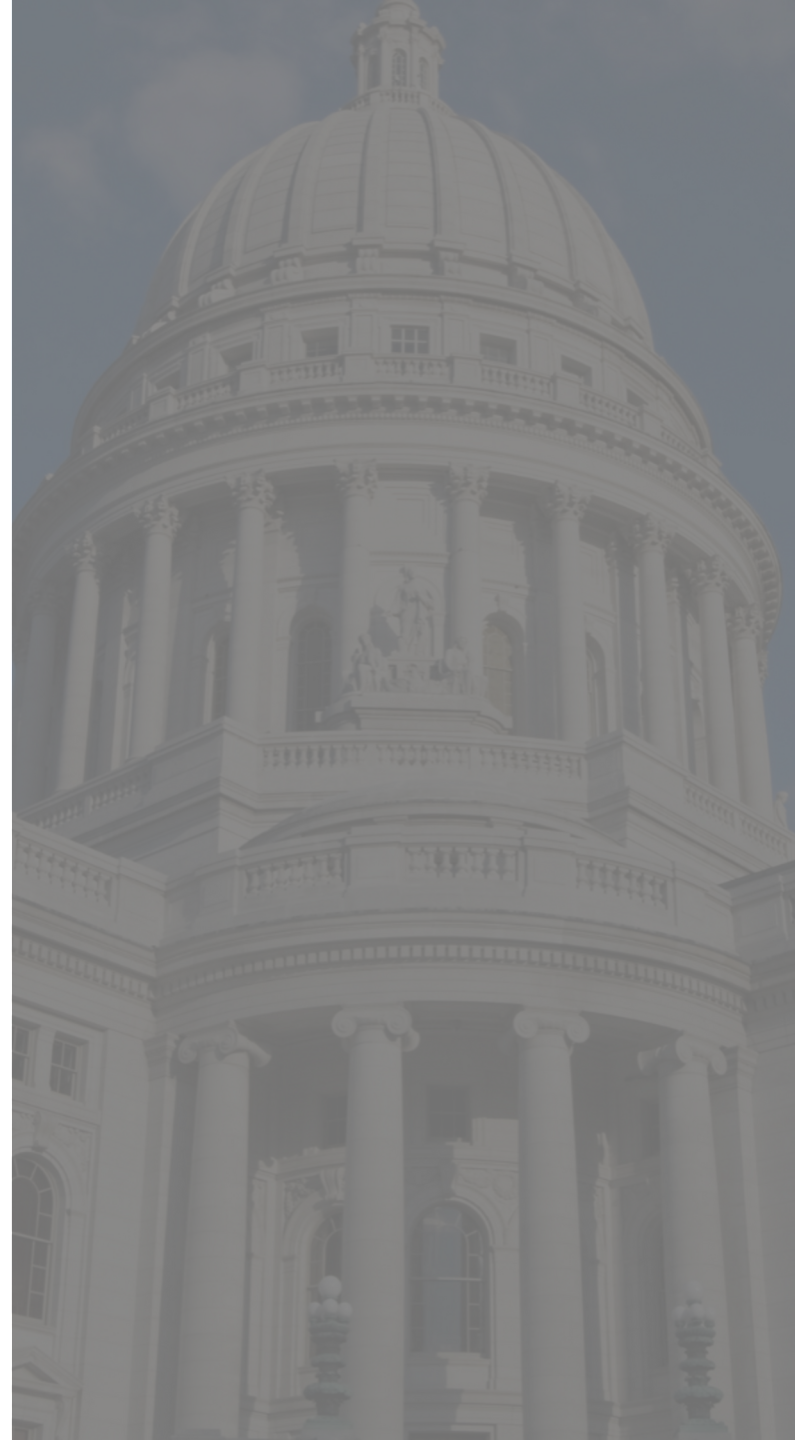




WISCONSIN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2023-24 Legislative Session



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Shared Revenue

Redistricting

Brewers

Alcohol Reform

Education Funding

Protective Status for
County Jailers

POLICY ITEMS REMAINING

Medical Marijuana

Utility/ Transmission Issue

Tax Cuts

Abortion

Redistricting

Electric Vehicle Charging

SESSION DAYS REMAINING

2024

February						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

LOOKING FORWARD

Budget Surplus

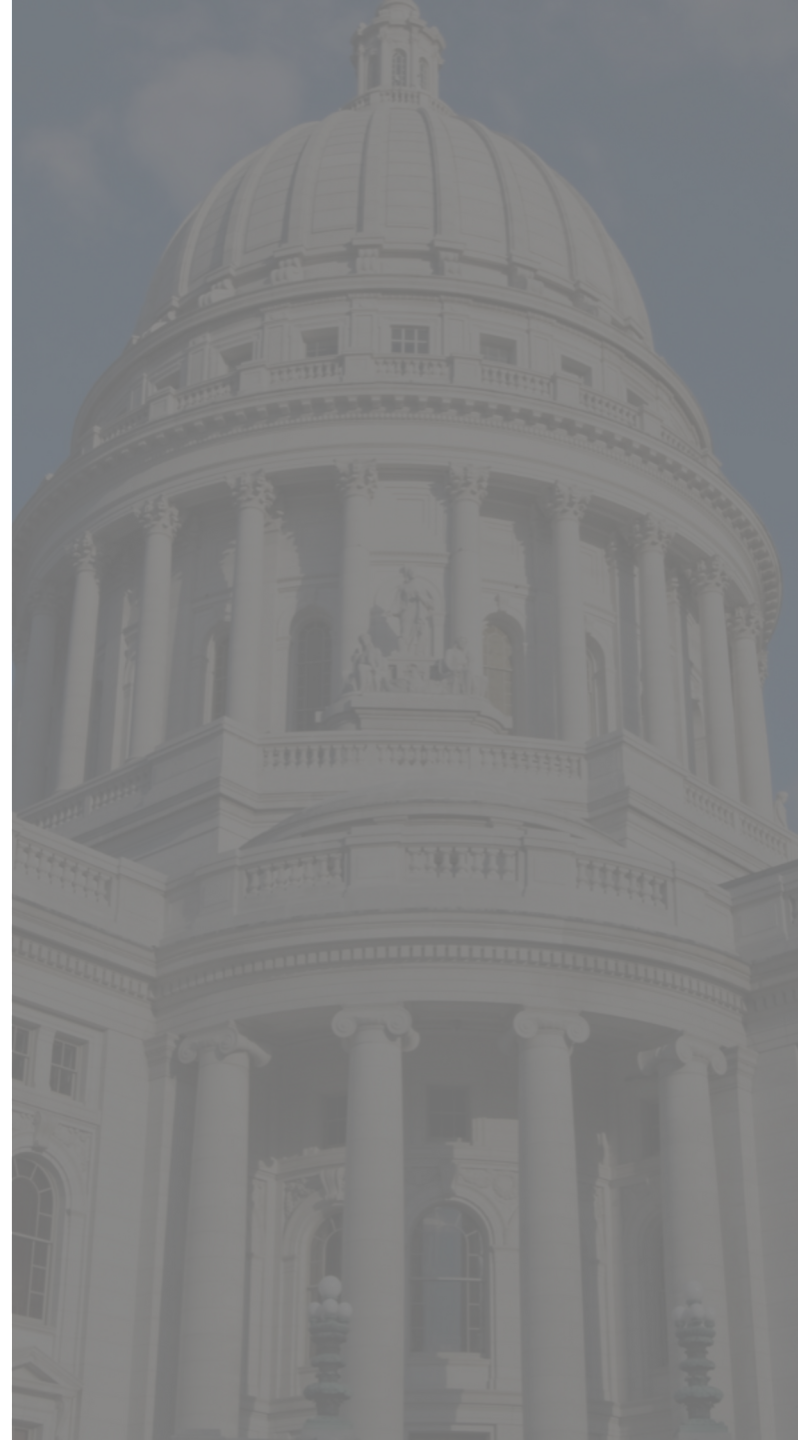
Mental Health

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

BACKGROUND

- 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

SB 520/AB 557

- 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

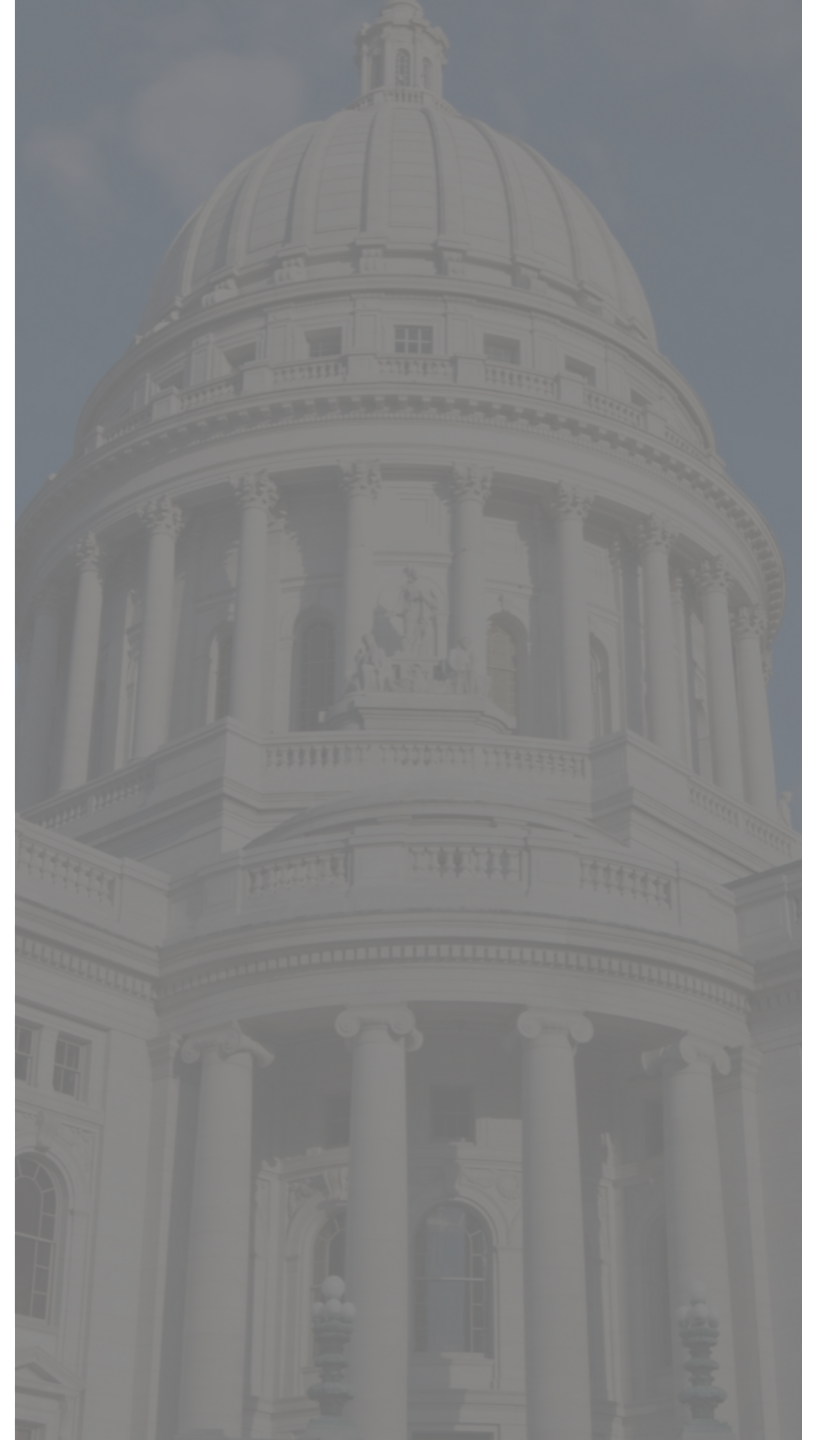


Passed senate floor



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

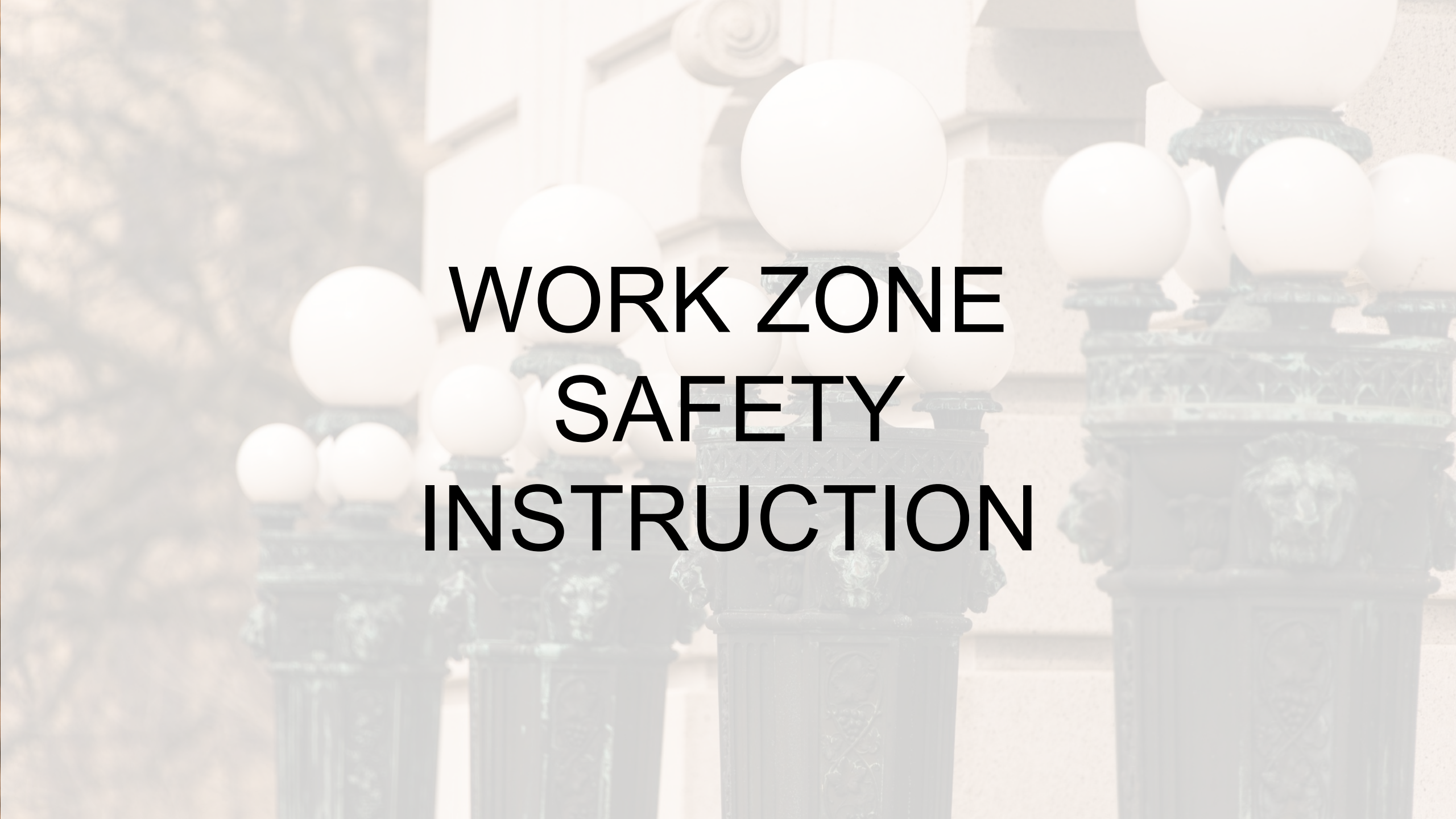
CURRENT STATUS



Passed the senate with bipartisan support



No Assembly action taken at this time



WORK ZONE SAFETY INSTRUCTION

BACKGROUND

- 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

AB 629 / SB 591

- 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





PFAS

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

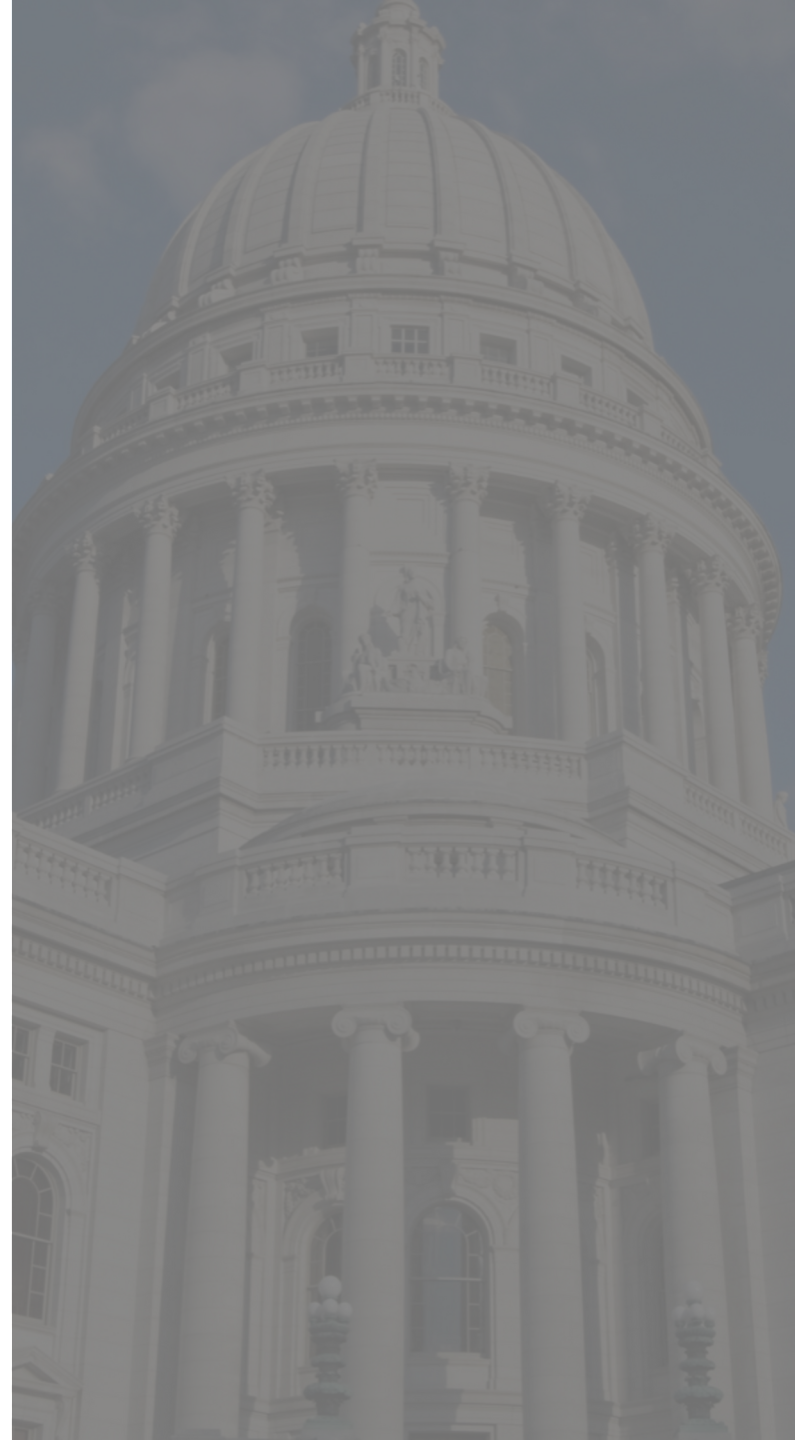
SB 312/ AB 312

- 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



The background of the slide features a row of ornate, dark-colored columns with decorative finials, each topped with a large, white, spherical globe. The image is faded and serves as a backdrop for the text.

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

AB 540/ SB 518

- 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

CURRENT STATUS

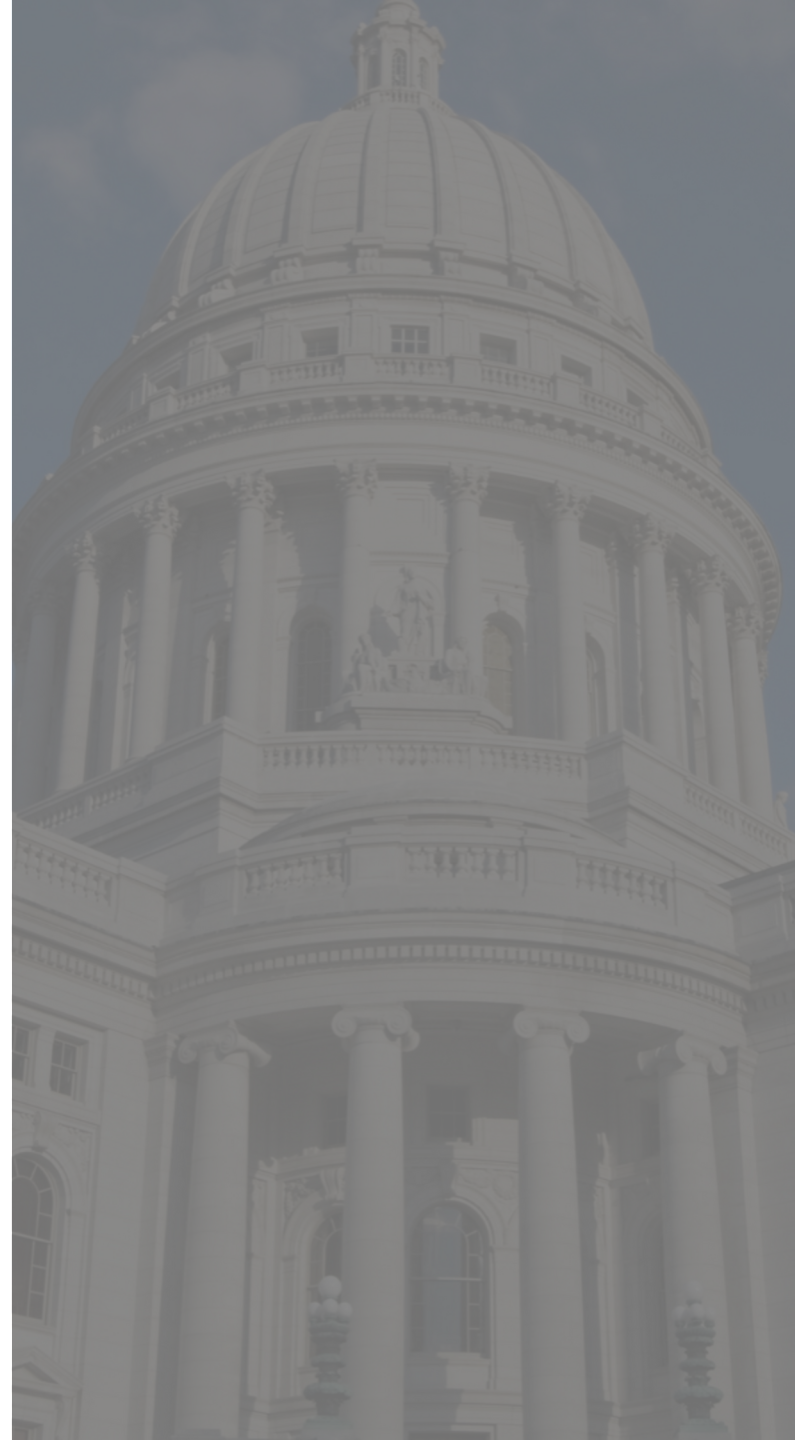


AB 540 had a public hearing in the Committee on Colleges and Universities



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