



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Senator Kapenga and Representative Vorpagel Announce Study Committees

[Madison, WI] — Senate President Chris Kapenga (R-Delafield) and Majority Caucus Chair Tyler Vorpagel (R-Plymouth) have announced seven Study Committees that will convene over the summer.

“The work within each Study Committee serves to inform the legislature so we can create meaningful and impactful legislation for our state,” said Senator Kapenga. *“I want to thank the Study Committee chairs for serving and their dedication to the subject matter. We are now looking for public members and will announce the full committee membership in the coming weeks.”*

“I echo my thanks with Senator Kapenga for the suggestions and for members willing to serve on the committees,” said Representative Vorpagel. *“These Study Committees are a great opportunity for legislators and members of the public to work together on issues that are relevant to seek common ground changes.”*

The scope for each Study Committee is provided below.

1) Commercial Building Permitting Process

Chair - Senator Duey Stroebel, Vice Chair - Representative Rob Summerfield

Scope: Examine the current commercial plan review process within the Department of Safety and Professional Services and municipalities, the timelines for environmental permitting, and the role of the Commercial Building Code Council. The committee will also evaluate approaches in other states and identify innovative and exemplary policies that could serve as a model for Wisconsin.

2) Increasing Offender Employment Opportunities

Chair - Senator Mary Felzkowski, Vice Chair – Representative Michael Schraa

Scope: Explore ways to improve job prospects for the offender population, which may include expanding connections between private employers and potential employees who are incarcerated in state institutions, recently released, or on extended supervision; exploring vocational earned release programs for possible implementation; and considering release location flexibility based on employment opportunities.

3) Occupational Licenses

Chair - Senator Rob Stafsholt, Vice Chair – Representative Shae Sortwell

Scope: Review the current occupational licensing system administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services, which may include reviewing current laws that could be eliminated without harming or endangering the health, safety, or welfare of the public; reviewing the necessity of legislative proposals for new occupational credentials; and determining the periodical review process to maintain current occupational credential requirements. The committee may also review options to expand access to individuals from other states to receive a reciprocal credential to practice in Wisconsin.

4) Shared School District Services

Chair - Representative Robert Brooks, Vice Chair - Senator Dan Feyen

Scope: Determine barriers to shared administrative or other shared services between school districts and explore changes and incentives to encourage efficiencies. Shared or consolidated services might include district-level administration and personnel, purchasing, technology and data processing, transportation, food service, and building maintenance.

5) Uniform Death Reporting Standards

Chair - Senator Joan Ballweg, Vice Chair – Representative Jesse James

Scope: Review the current protocols for investigating causes of death and reporting death, and the uniformity of those protocols, particularly deaths involving homicide, suicide, child or infant death, domestic violence, maternal mortality, and substance use. Focus on options to implement more comprehensive uniform death reporting standards across the state, and determine both the advantages and barriers to implementation of uniform standards.

6) Wisconsin National Guard Sexual Misconduct Procedures

Chair – Representative Tony Kurtz, Vice Chair - Senator Eric Wimberger

Scope: Study the Wisconsin National Guard's procedures for investigating and addressing sexual misconduct, with a particular focus on the National Guard Bureau Office of Complex Investigation's assessment of the Wisconsin National Guard's sexual assault and harassment reporting procedures, investigation protocols, and accountability measures.

7) **State Tribal Relations**

Chair - Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Vice Chair - Senator Janet Bewley

Scope: Study issues relating to American Indians and the American Indian tribes and bands in this state and develop specific recommendations and legislative proposals relating to these issues.

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Senator Kapenga represents the 33rd Senate District which covers most of central Waukesha County and Lake Country.

Representative Tyler Vorpapel serves the 27th Assembly District which includes Kiel, Cleveland, Elkhart Lake, Howards Grove, Plymouth, Kohler, and Sheboygan.