



**WAPA Legislative Update  
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There has not been a significant amount of action on WAPA-relevant bills since the March update. Some have not moved at all since March and others have made just slight progress, such as receiving fiscal estimates. There are a few new bills to report, however, as well as recent information on the State Biennial Budget and the 2007 State Planning Grant Awards.

Please remember that we will continue to post these legislative updates and other related information on the WAPA website's *Law and Legislation* page for members to access and continue to personally track the bills that they are interested in following more closely.

**2007-2009 State Biennial Budget News**

As I indicated in previous updates, the Executive budget (2007 SB 40) was released to the public in February. The Joint Finance Committee has completed its schedule of statewide budget hearings and has selected a budget review process. In brief, that process includes identification of 48 "non-fiscal policy items" within the Governor's budget, which the Committee has removed and will not consider during their budget deliberations. The Committee recommended that these items be drafted as separate bills. Items removed from the Governor's budget as non-fiscal policy items include:

- A provision to restore the Office of the Public Intervenor (Justice)
- A provision to authorize the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District to use a design-build process
- City of Milwaukee authority to extend the life of TIF districts
- A Farmland Preservation tax credit and land use provisions

In addition, the Committee has indicated that it will work from a combination of the Executive budget (SB 40) and the 2006-2007 adjusted base budget. The agencies whose budgets will be worked on from the Executive budget include Administration, Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Building Commission, Natural Resources, Regulation and Licensing, Shared Revenues and Tax Relief, Tourism, Transportation and WHEDA.

The Joint Finance Committee will hold an executive session on the budget on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in Room 412 East, State Capitol. For more information on the 2007-2009 biennial budget documents, see: <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/debf/execbudget.asp>

## 2007 Comprehensive Planning Grants Awards Announced on March 29th

The Department of Administration recently announced that it had awarded \$2 million in planning grant funding to 12 out of a total of 32 applicants for 2007. These 12 grant recipients represent 145 counties, cities, villages, and towns with a cumulative population of over 350,000 people (The entire 32 applicants represented a total of 305 jurisdictions.). These communities will join the other 964 communities in all areas of the state that have been awarded state planning grants to develop comprehensive plans.

For more information on the 2007 Grant Awards, please see the Department of Administration website:

[http://www.doa.state.wi.us/pagesubtext\\_detail.asp?linksubcatid=368&linkcatid=224&linkid=](http://www.doa.state.wi.us/pagesubtext_detail.asp?linksubcatid=368&linkcatid=224&linkid=)

The Wisconsin Department of Administration will host a series of comprehensive planning grant workshops this summer for communities interested in applying for 2008 grants.

## 2007 - 2008 Wisconsin Legislative Session Bill Tracking

The following are bills that have been introduced since the March 2007 legislative update. In addition, I have included status updates for previously reported bills only if their status has changed since the March update. If you have been following other legislative bills addressed in previous updates, please go to the WAPA website's *Law and Legislation* page for links and updates or go to the Wisconsin Legislature's website at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us>.

### NEW ASSEMBLY BILLS

**AB 254** - This bill was developed and is recommended by the joint legislative council's special committee on municipal annexation. The special committee was directed to review conflicts that arise under current annexation law and practice and the consequences of those conflicts, including costs to taxpayers and other affected parties, to determine if there is consensus on means to reduce annexation disputes and encourage more boundary cooperation between towns and cities or villages.

The bill addresses 1) the determination of common municipal (city, village, and town) boundaries by agreement; and 2) the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in annexation and other boundary disputes.

*Status: Introduced and referred to Committee on Urban and Local Affairs on 4/10/07. Fiscal estimates received 4/17 and 4/18/07. There is no state fiscal impact. Local governments may have some fiscal effect resulting from this bill, including a possible decrease in litigation costs related to boundary dispute. However, the effects are undetermined. Public hearing held 4/18/07.*

**AB 255** - This bill was developed and is recommended by the joint legislative council's special committee on municipal annexation. The special committee was directed to review conflicts that arise under current annexation law and practice and the consequences of those conflicts, including costs to taxpayers and other affected parties, to determine if there is consensus on means to reduce annexation disputes and encourage more boundary cooperation between towns and cities or villages. Expands DOA advisory review beyond populous counties.

**Status:** *Introduced and referred to Committee on Urban and Local Affairs on 4/10/07. Fiscal estimate received 4/17/0. It will increase state revenues and costs. It will have an undetermined fiscal effect on towns, villages and cities. Public hearing held 4/18/07.*

## **NEW SENATE BILLS**

**SB 134** - This bill was developed and is recommended by the joint legislative council's special committee on municipal annexation. The special committee was directed to review conflicts that arise under current annexation law and practice and the consequences of those conflicts, including costs to taxpayers and other affected parties, to determine if there is consensus on means to reduce annexation disputes and encourage more boundary cooperation between towns and cities or villages.

The bill addresses 1) the determination of common municipal (city, village, and town) boundaries by agreement; and 2) the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in annexation and other boundary disputes.

**Status:** *Introduced and referred to Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs on 4/6/07.*

**SB 135** - This bill was developed and is recommended by the joint legislative council's special committee on municipal annexation. The special committee was directed to review conflicts that arise under current annexation law and practice and the consequences of those conflicts, including costs to taxpayers and other affected parties, to determine if there is consensus on means to reduce annexation disputes and encourage more boundary cooperation between towns and cities or villages. Expands DOA advisory review beyond populous counties.

**Status:** *Introduced and referred to Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs on 4/6/07.*

## **UPDATES TO PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ASSEMBLY BILLS**

**AB 79** - Under current law, if a town meeting authorizes a town board to do so, the town board may exercise powers relating to villages and conferred on village boards by statute, except those powers that conflict with statutes relating to towns and town boards. This bill authorizes a town board that is authorized to exercise village powers to adopt a resolution, which is subject to ratification in a referendum that the town board must call, declaring that it is a "charter town." The bill allows the town board of a charter town to create a TIF district to the same extent as a city or village; it allows a charter town board to exercise certain zoning powers and exempts the town from being subject to certain city and village extraterritorial powers. This bill does not allow charter towns to annex territory or to engage in extraterritorial zoning or plat approval. The powers granted to towns in this bill apply only if certain conditions are met on the date on which the board adopts the resolution.

**Status:** *Fiscal estimate received 3/28/07. It would increase state costs by \$50,000 and town costs by an undetermined amount. Rep Petrowski added as coauthor on 4/5/07.*

[AB 93](#) - This bill provides that, before the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may award a grant under the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program for the acquisition of development rights, it must notify the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF). If the co-chairpersons of JCF do not notify DNR within a specified date that JCF has scheduled a meeting to review the proposal, DNR may award the grant. If the co-chairpersons notify DNR within that specified date that JCF has scheduled a meeting to review the proposal, then DNR may award the grant only upon approval of JCF.

*Status: Fiscal estimate received 3/30/07. It would increase costs to state and local governments by an undetermined amount.*

[AB 120](#) - This bill would amend the comprehensive planning law to require local governmental units to add drainage districts as a jurisdiction under the intergovernmental cooperation element of the comprehensive planning law.

*Status: Public hearing held 4/5/07.*

[AB 170](#) - Current law requires a municipality, including a county, city, village, town, or school district, to publish a legal notice in a newspaper with paid circulation that is likely to give notice in the area or to the person affected. Generally, this means a newspaper that has at least two years of publication experience in the municipality and a paid circulation of at least 50 percent of its total circulation. This bill allows a municipality the additional option of posting the notice on the Internet site of the municipality.

*Status: Assembly substitute amendment [1](#), including the Internet in the definition of "public places", offered by Representative Owens on 4/5/07.*

[AB 181](#) - Under current law, an architect, a landscape architect, a professional engineer, a designer of engineering systems, or a land surveyor may practice if he or she has a credential from the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Land Surveyors (Examining Board). The credential is renewed every other year. This bill allows the Examining Board to establish continuing education requirements that a person must satisfy in order to renew his or her credential.

*Status: A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, 5/2/07 at 11:00 AM. Location: 225 Northwest Capitol Building..*

#### **UPDATES TO PREVIOUSLY REPORTED SENATE BILLS**

[SB 7 \(AB 21\)](#) - This bill makes numerous changes to laws governing mobile homes, manufactured homes, and the mobile and manufactured housing industry.

*Status: Passed with Senate Substitute Amendment [1](#) by Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation, Family Prosperity and Housing, Ayes 7, Noes 0.*

[SB 17](#) - Creation of charter towns and expanding TIF authority for towns

**Status:** *Second fiscal estimate received on 2/8/07. It would have no state costs and undetermined costs to towns.*

**SB 29** - Current law imposes a fee of \$3 per ton on solid waste, other than certain kinds of high-volume industrial waste, disposed of at a landfill or other waste disposal facility. This type of fee is often called a tipping fee. The recycling fee is deposited into the recycling fund. This bill increases the recycling fee to \$10 per ton on April 1, 2008. The bill also increases funding by \$48,000,000 in fiscal year 2008-09 for the program that provides financial assistance to local governmental units that operate recycling programs.

**Status:** *Fiscal estimate received 4/5/07. It would increase state appropriations, revenues and costs and increase local government revenues.*

**SB 36** (Cross reference AB 79) - Under current law, if a town meeting authorizes a town board to do so, the town board may exercise powers relating to villages and conferred on village boards by statute, except those powers that conflict with statutes relating to towns and town boards. This bill authorizes a town board that is authorized to exercise village powers to adopt a resolution, which is subject to ratification in a referendum that the town board must call, declaring that it is a "charter town." The bill allows the town board of a charter town to create a TIF district to the same extent as a city or village; it allows a charter town board to exercise certain zoning powers and exempts the town from being subject to certain city and village extraterritorial powers. This bill does not allow charter towns to annex territory or to engage in extraterritorial zoning or plat approval. The powers granted to towns in this bill apply only if certain conditions are met on the date on which the board adopts the resolution.

**Status:** *Fiscal estimate received 3/28/07. It would increase state and town costs.*

If you see a bill of interest to you, sign up for the [Wisconsin Legislative Notification Service](#) that allows anyone to track legislative activities on proposals, committees, authors and subjects.

For other legislative links and resources, please see the list available on the WAPA website.