



The Wheeler Report

Covering the Wisconsin Legislature since 1972

Gwyn Guenther, President, The Wheeler Report

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY COMMITTEES

Study Committees for the 2026 interim have been approved by the Joint Legislative Council. Background information on these legislator and citizen committees is found on [Legislative Council's website](#).

Study Committee on Cemeteries – Approved 22-0.

- Representative Calvin Callahan, Chair, and Senator Rob Hutton, Vice Chair
- The study committee is directed to conduct a recodification of subch. II, ch. 157, Stats., relating to cemeteries, and subchs. VII and IX, ch. 440, Stats., relating to crematory authorities and cemetery authorities, salespersons, and preneed sellers, to include reorganizing the sections in a logical manner, renumbering and retitling sections, consolidating related provisions, modernizing language, resolving ambiguities in language, making other necessary organizational changes, and making minor substantive changes. The study committee may recommend mechanisms for providing guidance on these subchapters, written concisely and in language clearly understood by those required to comply with them, as well as legislation addressing the abandonment of cemeteries and the burial of human remains on noncemetery property.

Study Committee on Cryptocurrency – Approved 22-0.

- Senator Rob Stafsholt, Chair, and Representative Nate Gustafson, Vice Chair
- The study committee shall review the service of cryptocurrency staking, which involves the use of a third-party to commit a person's cryptocurrency in order to support the security and operations of certain blockchain protocols. In the course of this review, the study committee shall evaluate whether the state's securities laws should apply to such services or whether other requirements may be more appropriate and recommend legislation necessary to effectuate that determination. The study committee may also review other current and potential uses of cryptocurrency and recommend legislation regarding the use and development of cryptocurrency that encourages innovation and adequately protects the public from any risks associated with such technology.

Study Committee on District Attorney Funding Formula – Approved 22-0.

- Representative Ron Tusler, Chair, and Senator Van Wanggaard, Vice Chair
- The study committee is directed to review the weighted caseload formula currently used to determine how the state funds district attorneys' offices. The committee shall review how caseloads are measured to determine whether district attorneys' offices are adequately staffed and how positions are allocated based on the weighted caseload formula. The committee shall consider other issues relating to the weighted caseload formula, including whether the formula accurately reflects the offices' workloads and whether the formula has unintended consequences that do not serve the interests of justice. After these reviews, the committee shall recommend legislation relating to the weighted caseload formula that provides efficient and accurate methods to appropriately fund district attorneys' offices.

Study Committee on Floodplain Restoration – Approved 22-0.

- Representative Joy Goeben, Chair, and Senator Romaine Quinn, Vice Chair
- The study committee is directed to review state and federal laws and policies impacting floodplain restoration projects in Wisconsin. The committee shall identify barriers that these laws and policies may pose to floodplain restoration projects and make recommendations for changes to Wisconsin law that reduce these barriers and that encourage best practices in floodplain restoration projects. In making its recommendations, the committee shall consider floodplain management approaches adopted in other jurisdictions. The committee may also recommend changes to state law that may be enabled by changes to federal law under the Floodplain Enhancement and Recovery Act, legislation currently pending before Congress.

Study Committee on State Veterans' Benefits – Approved 22-0.

- Representative Karen Hurd, Chair, and Senator Cory Tomczyk, Vice Chair
- The study committee is directed to review the benefits state law currently provides to veterans and determine whether the term "veteran" should be redefined to provide a more uniform use of the term throughout the statutes,

expanded to include individuals who have served in the military but do not meet current applicable definitions of “veteran,” or both. In conducting this review, the committee shall examine the definition of “veteran” under s. 45.01 (12), Stats., as well as other statutory definitions or eligibility criteria that define the scope of who is entitled to particular benefits provided to former members of the military. The study committee shall also consider the purposes for which individuals who formerly served in a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces or the National Guard but do not meet current definitions of “veteran” should be included within this term.

Study Committee on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Health Care – Approved 22-0.

- Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara, Chair, and Representative Adam Neylon, Vice Chair
- The study committee is directed to study current and emerging uses of artificial intelligence (AI) technology in health care. As part of its review, the study committee shall consider the use of AI technology in the patient-provider relationship, including use in clinical care and communication facilitation. The study committee shall also consider the use of AI in interactions between insurers or medical assistance programs and patients. Finally, the study committee shall consider the use of AI between insurers or medical assistance programs and providers, including in health care coverage decision making. After these reviews, the study committee shall consider recommending legislation that addresses standards for the use of AI in health care services and insurance.

Biennial Appointment Of Chair And Vice Chair Of The Special Committee On State-Tribal Relations – Approved 22-0.

- The co-chairs of the Joint Legislative Council recommend that Representative Jeffrey Mursau serve as chair and Senator Kristin Dassler-Alfheim serve as vice chair of the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations.
- Scope: The special committee is directed to 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. [s. 13.83 (3), Stats.]