



## 2013 - 2014 Bills of Interest to Wisconsin Technical Colleges

As of February 27, 2013

Bills or proposed bills of interest to technical colleges in the 2013 - 2014 legislative session are described below. This document evolves with the addition of new bills and changes to existing bills throughout the session. Recently posted or changed items are highlighted. The District Boards Association's position or recommended position, if any, follows the bill description.

A directory of bills organized by subject begins on the next page.

A link to the bill at the Wisconsin State Legislature website is provided in each description. It connects to a summary page to access the bill's full text, its sponsors, and its procedural history and status. A guide to reading bill histories online follows at the conclusion of this report.

The District Boards Association's lobbying efforts and positions are available at the Government Accountability Board "Eye on Lobbying" website: <https://lobbying.wi.gov/Who/WhoIsLobbying/2013REG>. This site includes cross-referenced links to other organizations taking a lobbying interest in each bill.

The current legislative session officially runs through December, 2014, but effectively ends with adjournment in both houses sometime likely in Spring, 2014.

Readers are welcome to contact Paul Gabriel at the Association office for more information: 608 266-9430 or [pgabriel@districtboards.org](mailto:pgabriel@districtboards.org). More information is also available at the colleges' advocacy web portal: [www.technicalcollegeeffect.org](http://www.technicalcollegeeffect.org)

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## Bills of Interest

### **NEW – AB 9 – Concealed Carry of Weapons by Law Enforcement and Former Law Enforcement Officers**

*This bill was introduced on February 13, 2013, and is awaiting a hearing.*

Wisconsin's concealed carry of weapons law allows the owners of certain places, including buildings owned by Wisconsin technical colleges, to be posted so as to prohibit the carrying of concealed weapons by most individuals in those places. An exception to prohibiting concealed carry is already provided for law enforcement officers who are on duty. Law enforcement officers who are off duty and law enforcement officers who are retired currently may carry a concealed weapon in public by meeting certain requirements including carrying a photo ID issued by the employer or former employer, and by meeting rules established by the employer/former employer. Under current law, an off duty or retired officer may not generally carry a concealed weapon where the owner bans concealed carry.

This bill provides that any off duty law enforcement officer or retired law enforcement officer who is authorized to carry a concealed weapon may do so in any place, including a building owned by a technical college district, that is posted to otherwise prohibit the carrying of concealed weapons.

*Recommended position: None/monitor.*

Bill text and history: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/proposals/ab9>

### **NEW – AB 14 (also SB 23) – “Fast Forward Wisconsin” Workforce Training Grants**

*See SB 23, below.*

### **NEW – AB 23 – Funding Post-Retirement Health Care Benefits**

*This bill was introduced on February 15, 2013, and is awaiting a hearing.*

AB 23 would require local governments, including technical college districts, to fully fund any post-retirement health care insurance benefits on an actuarial basis effective for any new employee hired on or after January 1, 2014. The bill applies to any post-retirement health benefits including those provided by the use of “compensated absences.” It requires the up-front, as-you-go, annual cost of post-retirement health benefits be placed aside in a segregated account or be covered by another method that complies with “generally accepted accounting principles.”

This bill represents good public policy that is already followed by most or all districts. There is a question of the bill's necessity if it is already in practice. There is also uncertainty about whether this policy will always be the best decision regardless of the unique district or the changing environment. On this basis, it makes sense to leave the decision to the local government based on its needs and the current situation rather than mandating it without exception by the state.

*Recommended position: None/monitor.*

Bill text and history: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/proposals/ab23>

### **NEW – AB 26 – Fees Charged for Public Records Requests**

*This bill was introduced on February 15, 2013. It is awaiting a hearing.*

State law allows public entities, including technical colleges, to charge certain fees to a person requesting a record to cover costs associated with responding to the request. In the 2012 case *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel v. City of Milwaukee*, the court held that an authority does not have the power to charge fees for “redacting” (obscuring/blacking out) or separating out information in the requested record that is not subject to disclosure. Such information might include attorney-client privileged information of certain personal information.

AB 26 would allow a public entity including a technical college district “to charge the actual, necessary and direct cost of deleting, redacting, or separating information that is not subject to disclosure” from a record being disclosed.

*Recommended position: Support.*

Bill text and history: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/proposals/ab26>

### **NEW – AB 40 – The 2013-2015 State Budget Bill**

*AB 40 was introduced at the Governor's request on February 20, 2013. It has been referred to the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) and to the Joint Committees on Retirement Systems and on Tax Exemptions.*

*The JFC will hold briefings and public hearings on the budget in March and into April. The JFC then adjusts the bill through hundreds of individual motions topic by topic over several weeks. After the JFC passes its own bill version, typically in late May, the bill is referred to the full Assembly followed by the full Senate. Additional motions to amend the bill are considered by each house. Changes made by one house are considered by the other. After an identical bill*

*version passes both houses, the “enrolled” bill is ready for the Governor’s veto review and signing. In Wisconsin, appropriations bills are subject to “line item” partial veto.*

*The budget bill establishes state appropriations and state programs for the two-year period from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015.*

*For a summary of budget provisions affecting technical colleges and the latest update on the budget process, see: <http://districtboards.org/Articles/ArticleView.asp?articleid=635&lid=0&skey=guest>.*

Bill history and text (Warning: bill text is 1,093 pages): <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/proposals/ab40>

### **NEW – SB 23 (also AB 14) – “Fast Forward Wisconsin” Workforce Training Grants**

*These twin bills were introduced at the Governor’s request on February 14, 2013, and are on a fast track. They represent one part of a comprehensive workforce investment initiative contained in the state budget proposal (see AB 40) and stand-alone bills. Both AB 14 and SB 23 have received hearings and have been amended. Because the bills include a new appropriation, a version must also pass through the Joint Finance Committee (JFC), which voted to recommend passage on February 25, 2013.*

As amended, these bills create a new grant program to be administered by a new “Skills Development Council” created at the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). The bill provides \$7.5 million annually in new funding for “the development and implementation of workforce training programs.” These grants may be used to train incumbent workers or unemployed/underemployed individuals. The original bill provided the grants were to be used only to train “new and existing employees.” The bill was amended at the District Boards Association’s urging to include “unemployed and underemployed” individuals in addition to persons already on a business payroll. This assures a grant could be awarded to train candidates for employment or prospective employees not yet qualified to be hired.

Grants may be awarded to public entities such as technical colleges and local workforce boards, or to private entities such as companies providing workforce training services. The grants will be competitively awarded based on detailed rules established by DWD. Importantly, the amended bill also requires that DWD consult with the Wisconsin Technical College System (state) Board and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) in implementing the grants program.

The bill appropriates additional funding and authority for 4 FTE positions within DWD to administer the grant program and to create and administer a new state “Labor Market Information System (LMIS).” The LMIS will be implemented to “... collect, analyze, and disseminate information on current and projected employment opportunities in this state and other appropriate information relating to labor market dynamics as determined by (DWD).

DWD must make the LMIS information available free of charge to technical colleges, school districts, tribal colleges, the UW System, local workforce development boards, employers, job seekers, and the general public.

*Recommended position: Support.*

Bill history and text:

AB 14: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/proposals/ab14>

SB 23: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/proposals/sb23>

(End of Bills of Interest Section)

*This report was prepared by Paul Gabriel, who is responsible for the content, including any analysis or opinion. For more information, contact Paul Gabriel at 608 266-9430 or [pgabriel@districtboards.org](mailto:pgabriel@districtboards.org).*

*A Guide to Reading Bill Histories follows:*

## Reading Wisconsin Bill Histories – A Guide to the Basics

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The text, sponsors, and procedural history of each state legislative bill are available at the Wisconsin Legislature’s website, <http://legis.wisconsin.gov>. Select “Assembly” or Senate” and enter the bill number. You may also access a bill history page through links provided in the District Boards Association’s “Bills of Interest” reports found at [www.districtboards.org](http://www.districtboards.org).

When reviewing a specific bill history online, the following guide may be helpful:

### Links:

Bill text	(Link to) the original bill’s full text.
Amendments	(Link to) any amendment that changes or replaces the original bill’s full text.
Fiscal estimates	(Link to) estimated costs of implementing the bill as a new law.
Government Accountability Board information	(Link to) lobbying background concerning this bill.

### History:

Sponsors	Sponsors are listed in the first dated entry of the procedural history or on the bill itself. This entry’s date is the official date of bill introduction.
Read first time ...	Provides the committee to which bill is referred for a hearing.
Public hearing held ...	Hearing at which public may comment or register on the bill.
Executive action taken ... Report passage recommended	The committee voted the bill out of committee and sent it to the full body with its recommendation/vote for passage.

Assembly/Senate amendment	Link(s) to the numbered amendment(s) to the bill.
Assembly/Senate “substitute” amendment	Link(s) to the numbered “substitute” amendment. A “substitute” amendment <i>replaces entire original bill</i> .
Second reading	The full body considers the bill after it comes back from committee. This is the point at which amendments from committee or from the floor are officially attached.
Third reading	Clears the way for a full vote to pass or defeat the bill (it may be voted up or down but not amended). Allowing a third reading on the floor on the same day as the second reading requires waiving the rules without objection.
Voice vote	Adoption by the body without a roll call.
Ayes/Noes	Click on this link to see the roll call vote (not available when the action was by “voice vote”).
Messaged	After the vote, the action sending the bill to the other house.
Concurred in	One house’s adoption of the other’s bill or bill version.
Enrolled	The bill is packaged as a complete piece of legislation and is available to be called for by, or sent to, the Governor.
Report approved, vetoed, or vetoed in part	Reflects the Governor’s signing, veto, or (for appropriations bills only) partial veto.
Report published	The date on which the Secretary of State published the new law, making it official and putting it into effect as a law.
Act (number)	When a bill becomes law it is transformed from a bill number to “2013 Act xx.” Click on the Act number to see the new law.