

Legislative Update

2021 Advocacy - District Boards Association

Layla Merrifield - July 16th, 2021

State Budget

2021-23 WTCS Budget Request

- Request: \$12 million annually for grants to technical colleges to address pandemic-related unemployment and training needs
- Request: \$11.8 million annually to increase need-based grants to tech college students
- Request: \$50,000 annually for updated fire certification software
- Request: Repeal s. 36.31, to remove UW from the approval process for new AA/AS degree programs at tech colleges

State Budget

2021-23 Governor's Proposal for WTCS

- Governor: \$18 million annually for general aid to technical colleges
- Governor: \$2.3 million in 2021-22 and \$4.6 million in 2022-23 to increase need-based grants to technical college students
- Governor: 2% minimum increase in net new construction
- Governor: \$50,000 annually for updated fire certification software
- Governor: No change to s. 36.31
- Governor: \$91.2 billion in overall state spending

State Budget

2021-23 Outcomes for WTCS

- Legislature: \$2.25 million annually for grants to technical colleges
- Legislature: \$2.25 million annually for general aids to technical colleges
- Legislature: \$29 million in 2021-22 and \$43 million in 2022-23 in property tax relief aid. Delete 2% minimum increase in net new construction.
- Legislature: No increase for need-based grants to technical college students
- Legislature: Bill to repeal s. 36.31 introduced as separate legislation

State Budget

2021-23 Other Items of Interest

- 5.4% overall increase in state spending; \$87.5 billion in overall state spending
- \$3 billion in income tax and assorted property tax cuts
- \$202 million to compensate local governments for elimination of personal property tax
- \$5 million for a new nurse educator fellowship and loan assistance program
- \$128 million net increase for K-12; \$89 million increase for special education
- \$8.25 million increase over the biennium for UW; repeals 8-year tuition freeze
- \$125 million in borrowing to support broadband expansion

s. 36.31 Repeal

AB-266/SB-291

- Eliminates: WTCS Board may not broaden collegiate transfer programs beyond those offered in 1972-73 without Board of Regents approval
- Eliminates: Board of Regents may not broaden “semiprofessional or skilled-trade occupations” beyond those offered in 1972-73 without WTCS Board approval
- Generated ~200 advocacy letters of support from K-12, students, employers, economic development agencies, chambers, with a full day of testimony
- Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities hearing May 20, 2021; passed out of committee June 2, 2021
- Senate Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges: no action