

TO: Chairman Jason Haas, Intergovernmental Relations Committee
Members, Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Liz Stephens, County Board Legislative Liaison

DATE: September 18, 2015

RE: 2015-16 Fall Legislative Floor Period

The 2015-16 session of the Legislature is approaching the half way mark as lawmakers prepare for the fall floor period beginning on September 15th, followed by another beginning on October 20th, with the final floor period of the year scheduled for the first week of November. To date, more than 500 bills have been introduced in the Legislature, while just 60 bills have been signed into law.

The Senate convened its first fall floor period yesterday as a decidedly more conservative body, with former State Representative Chris Kapenga winning former State Senator Paul Farrow's seat in a special election. Former Senator Farrow resigned his seat this summer to focus exclusively on his work as Waukesha County Executive.

During the Fall floor period, legislation will likely be considered that reforms the Government Accountability Board ("GAB"); constrains the use of John Doe investigations; restricts the Department of Natural Resources' ability to regulate high-capacity wells; creates a statewide regulatory framework for industrial sand mines and quarries; limits fetal tissue research; and, reforms the state's public records laws.

In addition, of bills affecting Milwaukee County are also likely to be introduced and considered, including:

- Returning 17 year olds to the juvenile justice system without the provision of additional funding;
- Making it permissive for counties, including Milwaukee County, to adopt biennial operating budgets;
- Reforming 911-surcharge for shared revenue;
- Streamlining certain county highway rehab and maintenance programs; and
- Expanding alcoholic beverage service offerings at Milwaukee County Parks.

In addition, it is possible that the Legislature will revisit provisions adopted as part of the 2015-17 budget.