

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: September 6, 2022

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Sequanna Taylor, Chairwoman, Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

From: Emily Petersen, Government Affairs Liaison, County Board of Supervisors

Subject: File No. 22-17 – September Report

Background

Pursuant to File No. 22-17, this report is submitted as an informational report regarding legislative updates. The purpose of this report is to provide an update related to local, state, and federal policy developments, as well as an overview on the current state legislative session.

2021-2022 State Legislative Session

The Assembly held its last session of the current term on February 24, 2022, and the Senate held its last session on March 8, 2022. Barring any unforeseen or emergency circumstances, the Legislature will be in recess until January 2023.

Update on State Legislation

The Department of Health and Human Services periodically provides updates on the “implementation of a Secured Residential Care Center for Children and Youth in Milwaukee County, under 2017 Wisconsin Act 185” in Reference [File No. 22-35](#). More information on the history of 2017 Wisconsin Act 185 and its funding challenges can be found [here](#).

On August 16, 2022, the Joint Committee on Finance [approved](#) a request made by the Department of Corrections to adjust the statewide plan for the funding of secure residential care centers for children and youth (SRCCCYs). Funding for SRCCCY facilities was initially appropriated via the Juvenile Justice Grant Committee established in [2017 Wisconsin Act 185](#). In 2019, Milwaukee County adopted [File No. 19-558](#) supporting the State of Wisconsin fully funding all operating and capital costs associated with Secure Residential Care Centers for Youth and Family throughout the State. The Grant Committee awarded Milwaukee County \$15.2 million for the renovation of the Vel R. Phillips Juvenile Justice Center, which was [deferred](#) due, in part, to inadequate funding.

Throughout the course of counties across the State determining how they will move forward with the construction and operation of SRCCCY facilities, Brown and Dane counties declined to accept funding provided by the Grant Committee. The action by the Joint Committee on Finance transferred \$13.1 million in unaccepted funds to Milwaukee County for the purpose of creating a SRCCCY, for a total funding allotment of \$28.3 million.

Concurrently, the Department of Corrections [announced](#) their selection for Milwaukee County's Type I facility on August 9, 2022. The facility, proposed to be located on Milwaukee's northwest side, was subject to approval by the City of Milwaukee as part of [2021 Wisconsin Act 252](#). Legislation in favor of the location was [adopted](#) by the Common Council and signed by Mayor on August 12, 2022. The location will be before the State Building Commission in December 2022 for the next step in the approval process.

Updates on Adopted Legislation

In July, the County Board unanimously adopted, and the County Executive signed, [File No. 22-672](#) endorsing the State of Wisconsin passing legislation which would fairly divide Register of Deeds fees between the State and the collecting county, requesting inclusion of this policy as part of the 2022 Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) legislative platform. At its meeting on August 12, 2022, the WCA Board of Directors adopted Milwaukee County's resolution and added it to the legislative platform. Adding this resolution to the WCA legislative platform allows WCA's legislative team to lobby policymakers in pursuit of this goal. Because the resolution is also part of Milwaukee County's platform, the Office of Government Affairs can work with WCA staff on joint lobbying efforts.

cc: Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk
Steve Cady, Director, Research Services Division