

2021-22 Legislative Session Summary

The City of Milwaukee's Intergovernmental Relations Division (IRD) recently concluded its efforts for the 2021-22 State of Wisconsin Legislative Session. Below are some statistics regarding the City's legislative efforts.

- The Legislature introduced 2617 bills in the session, 1381 in the Assembly and 1236 in the Senate.
- IRD reviewed all 2617 of those bills and the City registered to lobby on 238 of them (approximately 9%), including 123 Assembly Bills and 115 Senate bills.
- Of the 2617 that were introduced, the Governor signed 217 into law and partially vetoed 46, including 2021 WI Act 68, the State Budget (as of April 5, 2022).

Items the City Supported

IRD was authorized to register in support of 130 bills.

Eight bills and nine budget items were enacted that address the 155 items supported in the City's legislative package that was adopted on November 20, 2020, including:

- ❖ Act 51 – Community -oriented policing house grant program and making an appropriation
- ❖ Act 68 – State budget; since the removal of all policy items and starting from a base budget the most significant was a 2% increase in General Transportation Aids
- ❖ Act 108 – Operation of unregistered vehicles
- ❖ Act 124 – Authorization for metropolitan sewerage districts containing a first class city to finance and construct a dredged material management facility located in the city of Milwaukee
- ❖ Act 162 – Interest on claims of excessive assessment and for recovery of unlawful property taxes
- ❖ Act 181 – Opioid and methamphetamine data system and making an appropriation
- ❖ Act 189 – Regulating scrap dealer purchases of catalytic converters
- ❖ Act 196 – Related to housing authorities

Fifteen additional bills enacted were supported through separate Judiciary and Legislation Committee action:

- ❖ Act 8 – Dentists administering vaccines and granting rule-making authority
- ❖ Act 33 – Public notice of non-candidacy for incumbent local elected officials

- ❖ Act 48 – Prohibiting use of choke holds by law enforcement officers in use of force policies
- ❖ Act 49 – Public access to policies regarding the use of force by law enforcement
- ❖ Act 50 – Reporting of law enforcement use of forces incidents
- ❖ Act 61 – Distribution of the aid payment for personal property upon termination of a tax incremental district
- ❖ Act 75 – Law enforcement agency policies on the use of force
- ❖ Act 82 – The responsibilities of the Law Enforcement Standards Board and disclosure of employment files when recruiting former or current officers
- ❖ Act 117 – Tracking of sexual assault kits in sexual assault cases, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation
- ❖ Act 180 – Decriminalizing fentanyl testing strips
- ❖ Act 183 – Reporting the use of no-knock entry in the execution of a search warrant
- ❖ Act 184 – Crisis program enhancement grants
- ❖ Act 185 – Grants to law enforcement agencies for body cameras
- ❖ Act 188 – Sexual contact by a law enforcement officer with a person in detainment or custody and providing a penalty
- ❖ Act 228 – Emergency medical transportation services under Medical Assistance program and making an appropriation

Twenty-eight additional items from the legislative package introduced as bills did not pass into law:

- ❖ AB 58 /SB 67 – Terminating a tenancy for fear of imminent violence
- ❖ AB 60 /SB 55 – Publication of proceedings of meetings held by certain governmental bodies
- ❖ AB 69 / SB 78 – Expungement of records of certain crimes and discrimination based on expunged conviction
- ❖ AB 80 / SB 126 – Adopting for state tax purposes federal changes to the earned income tax credit
- ❖ AB 185 / SB 245 – Prosecuting or adjudication delinquent a person under the age of 18 for committing an act of prostitution
- ❖ AB 310 / SB 214 – Early canvassing of absentee ballots, issuance of presidential ballots, combined polling places, timeline for sending or transmitting absentee ballots, nomination papers for certain independent candidates and providing a penalty
- ❖ AB 321 / SB 317 – The possession of a firearm by a person who has committed a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence and providing a penalty
- ❖ AB 322 / SB 318 – the possession of a firearm by a person who is a fugitive from justice and providing a penalty
- ❖ AB 342 / SB 349 – Local regulation of certain containers

- ❖ AB 348 / SB 355 – Raising the legal age for sale, purchase, and possession of cigarettes and nicotine and tobacco products, providing a legal age for sale, purchase and possession of vapor products, and providing a penalty
- ❖ AB 444 / SB 439 – Expanding the eligibility under the Medical Assistance program; funding infrastructure, land acquisition, and building projects, providing assistance and local government grants; maintaining an opioid and methamphetamine data system; transferring moneys to the budget stabilization fund; creating a University of Wisconsin System partnership program and admissions application fees; providing an exemption from rule-making procedures; and making an appropriation
- ❖ AB 458 / AB 988 / SB 442 – Violence prevention grants and making an appropriation
- ❖ AB 465 / SB 476 – Requiring the use of body cameras by law enforcement and providing a penalty
- ❖ AB 477 / SB 452 – A state minimum wage, allowing the enactment of local minimum wage ordinances, and granting rule-making authority
- ❖ AB 494 / SB 465 – Increasing the earned income tax credit for families with fewer than three children
- ❖ AB 527 / SB 490 – Authorizing community solar programs and granting rule-making authority
- ❖ AB 688 – Increasing the maximum income threshold for the homestead tax credit and indexing the credit's thresholds
- ❖ AB 731 / SB 702 – Exemption from public utility regulation regarding renewable electricity
- ❖ AB 739 / SB 741 – The use of automated speed enforcement systems and traffic control photographic systems in a first class city and providing a penalty
- ❖ AB 766 / SB 470 – Boating enforcement aids and making an appropriation
- ❖ AB 817 – Possession of a dangerous weapon by a person under the age of 18
- ❖ AB 832/SB 848 – Increasing the law enforcement training reimbursement
- ❖ AB 855 – Leaving a firearm in an unlocked vehicle and providing a penalty
- ❖ AB 860 – Storage of firearms in retail facility when unattended
- ❖ AB 862 – Containers or trigger locks provided at a firearm sale and providing a penalty
- ❖ AB 863 / SB 810 – A requirement to report lost or stolen firearms and providing a penalty
- ❖ AB 864 / SB 876 – Storage of a firearm in a house in which a resident is prohibited from possessing a firearm and providing a penalty
- ❖ AB 1015 / SB 955 – Grant programs for victim protection services and for law enforcement agencies to provide services to crime victims and witnesses before a person is charged; funding for crime victim services; reimbursement to counties for victim-witness services; and making an appropriation

Eighteen items were not part of the Legislative Package but were supported through separate Judiciary and Legislation Committee action and did not become law:

- ❖ AB 21/SB 21 - Aids to counties and municipalities for certain special election costs and making an appropriation
- ❖ AB 70/ SB 56 – Remote orders for the sale of alcohol beverages to be picked up on retail licensed premises
- ❖ AB 131/SB 152 – prohibiting the sale and use of coal tar-based sealants and high PAH sealant products
- ❖ AB 139/SB 26 – Prostitution crime surcharge and making an appropriation
- ❖ AB 141/SB 251 – prohibiting discrimination based on traits historically associated with race, including hair texture and protective hairstyles
- ❖ AB 146/SB 185 – Grants to homeless individuals and families, grants to defray housing costs and for diversion programming, housing navigator grants, homeless case management services, and making an appropriation
- ❖ AB 176/SB 193 – Appointment of certain lawfully present aliens as law enforcement officers 253
- ❖ AB 210/SB 253 – Grants for suicide prevention programming and making an appropriation
- ❖ AB 213/SB 220 – Interest rates on payday loans
- ❖ AB 251/SB 257 – Impersonating a public officer, public employee, or employee of a utility and providing a penalty
- ❖ AB 312/SB 326 – Prohibiting conversion therapy
- ❖ AB 331/SB 470 – Requiring prospective law enforcement officers to complete a psychological examination prior to employment as a law enforcement officer and granting rule-making authority
- ❖ AB 332/SB 471 – Crisis training for law enforcement officers
- ❖ AB 334/SB 476 – Drug testing of law enforcement officers involved in certain critical incidents while on duty
- ❖ AB 606/SB 631 – Crating a sales tax exemption for materials used to construct workforce housing developments or to conduct workforce housing
- ❖ AB 609- Local housing investment fund programs
- ❖ SB 142 – Waiving interest and penalties for late payment of property taxes and the timely filing requirement for claims to recover property taxes
- ❖ SB 656 – Prohibiting firearm accessories that accelerate the rate of fire of a semiautomatic firearm and providing penalty

Items We Opposed

IRD was authorized to oppose thirty-five bills that were introduced. Three of those bills were enacted.

- ❖ Act 1 – Various changes to the laws administered and enforced by the Department of Revenue
- ❖ Act 195 – Registration and the scope of practice of interior designers and granting rule-making authority
- ❖ Act 197 – Regulation of certain electric fences

IRD was authorized to register “other” on five bills that were introduced. Three of those bills were enacted:

- ❖ Act 21 – The retail sale of intoxicating liquor by the glass for consumption away from the licensed premises
- ❖ Act 80 – Extension of certain approvals and occupancy permits under the uniform dwelling code, extension of certain approvals that are subject to administrative, judicial, or appellate proceedings, waiver of interest and penalties on late 2021 property tax payments, and waiver of the timely payment requirement for filing certain property tax claims
- ❖ Act 107 – Municipal raze orders for certain dwellings

Governor Evers vetoed thirteen bills introduced. We opposed twelve items and registered undisclosed on one item:

- ❖ AB 1 – State government actions to address the COVID-19 pandemic, extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, and granting rule-making authority
- ❖ AB 24/SB 7 – Closure of and forbidding gatherings in places of worship
- ❖ AB 93/SB 89 – Certification requirements for emergency medical responders – (undisclosed)
- ❖ AB 111/SB 119 – Decreasing shared revenue payments to municipalities based on decreased funding for law enforcement officers
- ❖ AB 114/SB 117 – Boards of police and fire commissioners and protective service departments in populous cities
- ❖ AB 173/SB 207 – Private resources used for election administration, appointment of election officials, and providing a penalty
- ❖ AB 179/SB 205 – Absentee voting in certain residential care facilities and retirement homes and providing a penalty

- ❖ AB 191/SB 189 – Eliminating the personal property tax and making an appropriation
- ❖ AB 192/SB 203 – The secure delivery of absentee ballots and providing a penalty
- ❖ AB 198/SB 212 – Defects on absentee ballot certificates, certain kinds of election fraud, and providing a penalty
- ❖ AB 201/SB 204 – Absentee ballot application, unsolicited mailing or transmission of absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots, canvassing absentee ballots, electronic voter registration, and providing a penalty
- ❖ AB 411/SB 411 – Anti-racism and anti-sexism pupil instruction and anti-racism and anti-sexism training for employees of school districts and independent charter schools
- ❖ AB 834/SB 848 – No-knock search warrants and certain expenditures of federal moneys by first class cities