



## WEDA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES CHECKLIST

### 2019-20 SESSION

Issue	Category	Description	Status	Next Steps
<b>TIF Limit Bill – 12% to 18%</b>	<i>Effective Financial Incentives</i>	Increase from 12% to 18% the limit on the amount of taxable property permitted to be within a community's existing TIDs.	Modified version included in Rural Economic Development Bill draft.	Include the provision, or a variation of it in the Rural Economic Development Bill, which should be introduced this summer.
<b>Small Community TIF Flexibility Bill</b>	<i>Effective Financial Incentives</i>	Allow small communities to have up to three TIDs regardless of the statutory TIF percentage limit.	Modified version included in Rural Economic Development Bill draft	Include the provision, or a variation of it in the Rural Economic Development Bill, which should be introduced this summer.
<b>Rural Economic Development Bill</b>	<i>Effective Financial Incentives</i>	Support comprehensive legislation to provide financial resources and new economic development tools to smaller communities and rural areas of the state.	There was an attempt to include the proposal in the 2019-21 state budget bill, but it ultimately was not included. The bill's authors plan to introduce it as stand-alone legislation this summer.	Remain engaged in negotiation of final version of the bill before it's introduced; Engage in grassroots advocacy when appropriate.
<b>TEA Grant Bill</b>	<i>Effective Financial Incentives</i>	Require the state's Transportation Economic Assistance program to provide grant funding for projects that retain jobs, not just those that create jobs.	Legislation was circulated for co-sponsorship and has been introduced. Over 25 lawmakers co-sponsored the bill.	Hold public hearing on bill.

<b>Preserve the State Trust Fund Loan Program</b>	<i>Effective Financial Incentives</i>	Preserve the State Trust Fund Loan program in its current form. The program is one of the largest public investors in economic development projects in Wisconsin.	No legislation resulted from the 2018 Study Committee on School Trust Funds that would negatively impact the loan program. The state budget bill does not include any language that would diminish the program.	Continue to monitor for harmful legislation.
<b>Opportunity Zone Bill</b>	<i>Effective Financial Incentives</i>	Create a state Opportunity Zone program that enhances the Federal Opportunity Zone program to attract more long-term investments in Wisconsin communities.	Being redrafted with suggested changes from DOR and private sector experts.	Circulate for co-sponsorship and introduce.
<b>Earned In-State Tuition Grant Bill</b>	<i>Advance Workforce Development</i>	Create a financial incentive grant program to encourage out-of-state students who attend college in Wisconsin to stay in the state to live and work after graduation.	Introduced as AB 174 and SB 181.	Hold public hearing on bill.
<b>Housing Voucher Incentive Program Bill</b>	<i>Advance Workforce Development</i>	Create a talent attraction program to provide individuals who move to the state to live and work with housing vouchers to offset housing costs	Being discussed with lawmakers. No other action to date.	Potential legislation for fall.
<b>Workforce Housing Sales Tax Exemption Bill</b>	<i>Advance Workforce Development</i>	Create a sales tax exemption for building supplies used in workforce housing projects.	Included in Rural Economic Development Bill proposal.	The Rural Economic Development Bill should be introduced this summer.

<p><b>Housing Improvement TIF Expansion Bill</b></p>	<p><i>Advance Workforce Development</i></p>	<p>Increase the current TIF “housing improvement extension” that allows a community to extend the life of a TIF to improve housing stock from one year to two years.</p>	<p>Being discussed with lawmakers. Could be included in Rural Economic Development Bill proposal.</p>	<p>Continue discussions with lawmakers.</p>
<p><b>Dark Store Bill</b></p>	<p><i>Competitive Business Climate</i></p>	<p>Close the “Dark Store” property tax loophole in Wisconsin.</p>	<p>Introduced as AB 146 and SB 130.</p>	<p>Hold public hearing on bill.</p>
<p><b>Preserve WEDC</b></p>	<p><i>Competitive Business Climate</i></p>	<p>Preserve WEDC as the state’s economic development agency and maintain the agency’s economic development programs.</p>	<p>Gov. Evers has backed off his campaign promise to dismantle the agency. The GOP-controlled Legislature supports the continuation of the agency in its current form.</p>	<p>Continue to monitor the situation. Meet with new WEDC CEO who is expected to be appointed this fall.</p>
<p><b>Modern Transportation Infrastructure</b></p>	<p><i>Robust Infrastructure</i></p>	<p>Support a reliable, yet reasonable funding source for the maintenance and future development of a modern, statewide transportation network.</p>	<p>Significant new funding was included in the 2019-21 budget bill for roads and other transportation needs.</p>	<p>Continue to engage in the transportation funding discussion.</p>