

November 2025 Quarterly Meeting: Advocacy Report

The following is information, resources, and guidance on the proposed bills at the State level. As a reminder, to find your legislator you can click on: <https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/?lat=&lon=&address=> and type in your address. This will provide both the Senate and Assembly members that cover that area.

2025 Senate Bill 621 – introduced by Senator Tomczyk. Referred to Committee on Insurance, Housing, Rural Issues, and Forestry. <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/proposals/sb621>

2025 Assembly Bill 631 – introduced by Representatives Maxey, Melotik, Murphy, and Mursau. Referred to Committee on Housing and Real Estate. <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/ab631>

- This is the bill that would authorize the Department of Administration to designate public property for use as a “structured camping facility.”

This bill authorizes the Department of Administration and, under the circumstances described below, cities, villages, towns, and counties (political subdivisions) to designate public property, other than county fairgrounds and public parks, for use as a “structured camping facility” at which DOA may assign to a homeless individual or family a specific location for the purpose of allowing the individual or family to set up temporary residence at the facility. DOA may allow homeless individuals and families assigned to a structured camping facility to bring camping equipment and other personal items onto the facility. Additionally, DOA must provide for public safety at structured camping facilities and must ensure that potable water and adequate sanitary facilities are available at each facility. The bill also requires DOA to collect data related to the number of individuals who set up temporary residence at each structured camping facility.

Also, under the bill, if a resident of a political subdivision petitions the political subdivision to designate public property of the political subdivision as a structured camping facility, the political subdivision may make a designation and must provide DOA notice of the designation. If the political subdivision fails to make a designation within 12 months after the resident’s petition, DOA may designate public property of the political subdivision as a structured camping facility without the political subdivision’s approval, but only if the political subdivision had a homeless population above the per capita statewide average for political subdivisions in any of the immediately preceding two statewide counts of the homeless population in the state, as determined by DOA. Otherwise, the bill provides that DOA may designate public property of a political subdivision as a structured camping facility only with the approval of the political subdivision.

Under the bill, if DOA is unable to assign to a homeless individual or family a specific location at a structured camping facility because every structured camping facility in the applicable political subdivision is at capacity, DOA must place the homeless individual or family on a waiting list until a location at a structured camping facility within the political subdivision becomes available. Notwithstanding the general requirements for designating public property as a structured camping facility under the bill, if at any time 12 or more individuals are listed on a waiting list in a single political subdivision, DOA must immediately designate public property of the political subdivision as a structured camping facility for the purpose of assigning the individuals listed on the waiting list to the structured camping facility.

The bill also prohibits the setting up of a temporary residence on public property that is not designated for recreational camping or designated as a structured camping facility under the bill. An individual who violates the prohibition is

subject to a warning notice for a first violation and then is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor for a second or subsequent violation. The penalty does not apply if the individual has been placed on a waiting list under the bill.

Finally, under the bill, DOA must condition a homeless individual's or family's temporary residence at a structured camping facility on the completion of mental health or substance use evaluations, and DOA may expel individuals who fail to comply with DOA instructions.

2025 Senate Bill 614 – introduced by Senators Marklein, Quinn, Testin, and Wimberger. Referred to Committee on Insurance, Housing, Rural Issues, and Forestry. <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/proposals/sb614>

2025 Assembly Bill 625 – introduced by Representatives Dallman, Dittirch, Knodle, Kurtz, O'Conner, and Melotik. Referred to Committee on Housing and Real Estate. <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/ab625>

- This bill establishes “pay for performance” requirements for certain grants issued under the Department of Administration grant programs with the purpose of alleviating homelessness. This bill also requires detailed data including personally identifiable information be submitted annually.

Under current law, the Department of Administration administers a number of grant programs having the purpose of alleviating homelessness. This bill establishes “pay for performance” requirements for certain grants issued under those programs to grant recipients. For each eligible grant awarded to a grant recipient, DOA must withhold between 10 and 50 percent of the amount of the eligible grant for at least nine months after the award. DOA may then pay the amount withheld to the grant recipient only if the recipient demonstrates that it has met one or more of the following performance objectives, as determined by DOA:

1. Increased the number of homeless individuals and families securing continued housing for longer than nine months after participation in a program offered by the grant recipient.
2. Increased the number of homeless individuals securing part-time or full-time employment and an increase in earned income after participation in a program offered by the grant recipient.
3. Reduced the number of homeless individuals and families returning to homelessness after participation in a program offered by the grant recipient.

Any moneys that DOA has withheld and does not pay to a grant recipient due to the grant recipient's failure to satisfy one or more of the performance objectives may be reallocated as additional grant moneys to other grant recipients that do satisfy the performance objectives.

The bill also requires grant recipients to provide to DOA, at least nine months but no more than 12 months after the award, a detailed report that includes information about the program offered by the grant recipient and demographic information about each individual participating in the program offered by the grant recipient. All of the following information about everyone that receives services or housing from the grant recipient as a result of the grant:

- The full first name or given name used by the individual.
- The full middle name or names, if any, used by the individual.
- The full last name or surname used by the individual.
- The individual's social security number.
- The individual's date of birth.

2025 Senate Bill 610 – introduced by Senators Hutton, Nass, Jacque, Wimberger, and Tomczyk. Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety. <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/sb610>

2025 Assembly Bill 624 – introduced by Representatives Donovan, Behnke, Dittrich, Gundrum, Knodl, Kreibich, Kurtz, Maxey, Moses, Penterman, Tittl, and Wichgers. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/proposals/ab624>

- This bill adds that the maximum term of imprisonment may be increased by 5 years if someone delivers or distributes, or possessing with intent to deliver or distribute drugs on the premises of a homeless shelter or within 1000 ft of a homeless shelter.

Current law prohibits a person from delivering or distributing, or possessing with the intent to deliver or distribute, cocaine, cocaine base, fentanyl, a fentanyl analog, heroin, phencyclidine, lysergic acid diethylamide, psilocin, psilocybin, amphetamine, methamphetamine, methcathinone, or any form of tetrahydrocannabinols. The penalty for violating the prohibition varies by substance and amount, but current law increases the maximum term of imprisonment for violating the prohibition by five years if the violation takes place on or in, or within 1,000 feet of, a park, a jail, a multiunit public housing project, a public swimming pool, a youth or community center, a school or a school bus, or the premises of a treatment facility that provides alcohol and other drug abuse treatment. This bill adds that the maximum term of imprisonment may be increased by five years if the violation takes place on the premises of a homeless shelter or within 1,000 feet of the premises of a homeless shelter.