



Wisconsin Legislature

P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708

July 22, 2021

Secretary - Designee Amy Pechacek
201 E. Washington Ave.
A400
Madison, WI 53707

****Delivered Electronically****

Dear Secretary - Designee Pechacek,

As Chairs of the Assembly Workforce Development and Labor and Integrated Employment committees, we are once again extremely disappointed in your office's inability to follow basic Wisconsin state statute. As you know, the balance of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund (Fund) is extremely important as the fund pays benefits to those unemployed and is a factor in future tax rates for our businesses throughout the state. Thankfully, the governor changed course after he vetoed Assembly Bill 237, and signed Assembly Bill 406, which provides employers much-needed relief for the next 2 years.

While the governor continues to flounder on helping our workforce, Assembly Republicans remain proactive in helping employers and workers in our state. As we continue to craft policy, it is important that the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) meet its statutory requirements by providing the legislature with an up-to-date balance of the fund. This is why Wisconsin Statute 16.48 (3) was created and passed with bipartisan support.

“No later than June 15 of each odd-numbered year, the secretary of workforce development, under the direction of the governor, shall submit to each member of the legislature an updated statement of unemployment insurance financial outlook which shall contain the information specified in sub. (1) (a), together with the governor's recommendations and an explanation for such recommendations, and a copy of the report required under sub. (1) (b).”

As of the writing of this letter, our offices have yet to receive a copy of that report. It is clear that, once again, the DWD has failed to fulfill its statutory duty under Wisconsin Law. It also raises concerns that if the DWD cannot complete this simple task, how can the state have faith that the governor's attempt to solve the workforce issue facing employers in our state will be efficient, timely, and meet the needs of our state?

Hopefully, your Department will judiciously furnish a copy of this report to the legislature shortly as required by state law.

Sincerely,

Warren Petryk
State Representative
93rd Assembly District

James Edming
State Representative
87th Assembly District