

http://host.madison.com/ct/news/local/govt-and-politics/election-matters/wisconsin-budget-committee-approves-two-homelessness-bills/article_4f65867a-8586-5856-b00b-1c27dcacf3ac.html

Wisconsin budget committee approves two homelessness bills

JESSIE OPOIEN | The Capital Times | jopoien@madison.com | @jessieopie Apr 25, 2017



M.P. KING, STATE JOURNAL

The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee began its review of Gov. Scott Walker's 2017-19 budget proposal Tuesday.

Jessie Opoien

Jessie Opoien covers state government and politics for the Capital Times. She joined the Cap Times in 2013 and has also covered Madison life, race relations, culture and music. She has also covered education and politics for the Oshkosh Northwestern.



Get the Cap Times app for your smartphone

[Click here for the iPhone version](#)

[Click here for the Android version](#)

Get news alerts delivered to your inbox.

Cap Times Headlines Sent each morning at 6

Cap Times Opinion Sent each morning at 11

Cap Times Recap "In Case You Missed It" Sent each afternoon at 5

Madison.com Features Sent each morning at 6

Madison.com Food & Drink Sent each Thursday morning at 11

Madison.com Movies Sent each Friday morning at 9

Email:

First Name:

The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee voted unanimously on Monday to approve two bills aimed at reducing homelessness in Wisconsin.

The first would create an Interagency Council on Homelessness led by the governor or his or her designee. The bill's authors have said the chairperson would be Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch.

The council would include secretaries of the eight state agencies that receive homelessness funding and representatives from groups that deal with homelessness throughout the state.

The bill, authored by Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke, R-Kaukauna, and Sen. Alberta Darling, R-River Hills, would also set aside \$95,000 to fund supplies, services and a position to oversee the council's activities.

The council would meet at least four times a year to set and review policies with the goal of preventing and ending homelessness.

Democratic amendments that would have appointed representatives from End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin Workforce Development Association to the council and allowed the council to make budgetary recommendations to the governor were rejected.

The second bill would create a \$75,000 grant program for a municipality to pilot a program to connect homeless people with permanent employment. The bill, authored by Darling and Rep. Jessie Rodriguez, R-Oak Creek, is modeled after the "Better Way" program in Albuquerque, which offers homeless people jobs cleaning up parks and public spaces.

The municipality would be required to provide \$50,000 to go along with the grant, and priority would be given to proposals that include additional pledged support from a nonprofit organization. A similar proposal was included in Walker's budget.

Last Name:

Subscribe

The two bills were introduced by Republican lawmakers earlier this month as part of a package designed to fight and prevent homelessness. They await votes from the full Legislature.

Share your opinion on this topic by sending a letter to the editor to tctvoice@madison.com. Include your full name, hometown and phone number. Your name and town will be published. The phone number is for verification purposes only. Please keep your letter to 250 words or less.

Jessie Opoien | The Capital Times

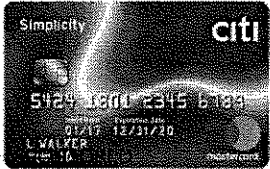
Jessie Opoien covers state government and politics for the Capital Times. She joined the Cap Times in 2013 and has also covered Madison life, race relations, culture and music. She has also covered education and politics for the Oshkosh Northwestern.

Currents

The most popular big dog breeds in America

The most popular big dog breeds in America

Netflix Enters China...Sort Of



CITI Citi Simplicity® Card

Why Shares of Time Inc. Are Imploding Today

'I'll be praying for you:' Americans write the president on his first 100 days

'I'll be praying for you:' Americans write the president on his first 100 days

5 Signs T-Mobile's Best Days Are Ahead

Blue Sky Science: How does a curveball curve?

Blue Sky Science: How does a curveball curve?

General Motors' Profit Jumps 34% on Strong SUV and Truck Demand