

EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Source of Funds	FY25 Adjusted Base	FY26 Recommended	% Change Over FY25	FY27 Recommended	% Change Over FY26
GPR	958,800	982,200	2.4	2,354,400	139.7
PR-O	145,600	145,600	0.0	145,600	0.0
TOTAL	1,104,400	1,127,800	2.1	2,500,000	121.7

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

Source of Funds	FY25 Adjusted Base	FY26 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY25	FY27 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY26
GPR	6.00	6.00	0.00	23.50	17.50
TOTAL	6.00	6.00	0.00	23.50	17.50

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The commission consists of a chairperson, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, for a six-year term.

The commission is charged with administering processes established by the Wisconsin Employment Peace Act, Municipal Employment Relations Act and State Employment Labor Relations Act (Subchapters I, IV and V of Chapter 111, Wisconsin Statutes) to avoid the costly consequences of strikes, lockouts and other interruptions of services and production. The commission's labor relations work includes conducting elections to determine bargaining units and bargaining representatives; issuing decisions regarding unfair labor practice, election, unit clarification and declaratory ruling cases; mediating collective bargaining disputes; and providing arbitration services for grievances arising over the interpretation and application of existing collective bargaining agreements. The commission also issues decisions regarding appeals of certain state personnel actions under s. 230.45(1), Wisconsin Statutes, and provides labor management consensus bargaining training, designed to enable the parties to work together to achieve common goals.

MISSION

The mission of the commission is to promote peaceful and harmonious labor-management relations by professionally and impartially administering Wisconsin's municipal, state and private sector labor relations statutes to protect and promote the interrelated interests of the public, the employee and the employer. Through its administration of the statutes, the commission aims to provide taxpayers, labor, management and the public with cost-effective services that promote employment peace, employee freedom to choose whether to bargain collectively, uninterrupted production of goods and services, orderly and constructive employment relations, and efficient administration of state and local government.

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PROGRAMS, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Program 1: Labor Relations

Goal: Promptly, competently and fairly address and resolve the parties' disputes in grievance arbitration, civil service, labor law complaints and election cases.

Objective/Activity: Work toward 100 percent time line compliance for all decisions and awards.

Goal: Delivery of effective mediation services to municipal, state and private sectors.

Objective/Activity: Provide timely and effective mediation services.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

2023 AND 2024 GOALS AND ACTUALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2023	Actual 2023	Goal 2024	Actual 2024
1.	Percentage of mediation-type cases closed without interest arbitration award or fact-finding recommendation.	90%	95%	90%	94%
1.	Percentage of labor relations decisions and drafts issued by attorney-mediator staff, commissioners or commission in compliance with time guidelines.	90%	78%	90%	82%
1.	Percentage of grievance awards issued by attorney-mediator staff and commissioners in compliance with time guidelines.	85%	100%	85%	83%
1.	Percentage of personnel appeals and drafts issued by attorney-mediator staff, commissioners or commission in compliance with time guidelines.	90%	97%	90%	98%
1.	Percentage of cases with a statutory time line. Case types include statutory civil service appeals and statutory labor relations cases.	100%	95%	100%	96%

Note: Based on fiscal year.

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2025, 2026 AND 2027 GOALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2025	Goal 2026	Goal 2027
1.	Percentage of mediation-type cases closed without interest arbitration award or fact-finding recommendation.	90%	90%	90%
1.	Percentage of labor relations decisions and drafts issued by attorney-mediator staff, commissioners or commission in compliance with time guidelines.	85% ¹	85%	85%
1.	Percentage of grievance awards issued by attorney-mediator staff and commissioners in compliance with time guidelines.	85%	85%	85%
1.	Percentage of personnel appeals and drafts issued by attorney-mediator staff, the commissioner or commission in compliance with time guidelines.	90%	90%	90%
1.	Percentage of cases with a statutory time line. Case types include statutory civil service appeals and statutory labor relations cases.	100%	100%	100%

Note: Based on fiscal year.

¹Goal has been modified for the upcoming biennium.

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GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Collective Bargaining Provisions
2. Local Government Employee Grievance Procedures
3. Standard Budget Adjustments

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**Table 1
Department Budget Summary by Funding Source (in thousands of dollars)**

	ACTUAL FY24	ADJUSTED BASE FY25	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	\$964.8	\$958.8	\$982.2	\$983.5	\$982.2	\$2,354.4
State Operations	964.8	958.8	982.2	983.5	982.2	2,354.4
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	\$106.3	\$145.6	\$145.6	\$145.6	\$145.6	\$145.6
State Operations	106.3	145.6	145.6	145.6	145.6	145.6
TOTALS - ANNUAL	\$1,071.1	\$1,104.4	\$1,127.8	\$1,129.1	\$1,127.8	\$2,500.0
State Operations	1,071.1	1,104.4	1,127.8	1,129.1	1,127.8	2,500.0

(2) Includes Program Revenue-Service and Program Revenue-Other

**Table 2
Department Position Summary by Funding Source (in FTE positions)**

	ADJUSTED BASE FY25	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	23.50
State Operations	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	23.50
TOTALS - ANNUAL	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	23.50
State Operations	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	23.50

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**Table 3
Department Budget Summary by Program (in thousands of dollars)**

	ACTUAL FY24	ADJUSTED BASE FY25	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
1. Labor relations	\$1,071.1	\$1,104.4	\$1,127.8	\$1,129.1	\$1,127.8	\$2,500.0
TOTALS	\$1,071.1	\$1,104.4	\$1,127.8	\$1,129.1	\$1,127.8	\$2,500.0

**Table 4
Department Position Summary by Program (in FTE positions)**

	ADJUSTED BASE FY25	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
1. Labor relations	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	23.50
TOTALS	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	23.50

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1. Collective Bargaining Provisions

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1,370,900	17.50
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1,370,900	17.50

The Governor recommends modifying current law to expand collective bargaining rights for local and state government employees, including University of Wisconsin faculty, academic staff and graduate students. The Governor recommends: (a) establishing collective bargaining, mediation and arbitration rights for front-line workers and any other employee in a collective bargaining unit containing a front-line worker; (b) eliminating the required annual recertification requirement for representatives of all bargaining units; (c) requiring a majority vote of all bargaining unit members voting to recertify a representative, as opposed to a majority vote of all of a unit's members; and (d) requiring that upon changes in policy impacting wages, working hours or working conditions (and if there are no such changes then on at least a quarterly basis), employers meet and consult with representatives from all bargaining units other than public safety, transit or front-line worker qualified units with collective bargaining rights. Front-line workers are defined as employees with regular job duties that include interacting with members of the public or large populations, or directly involving the maintenance of public works. The Governor also recommends modifying current law to expand collective bargaining rights to include the employer contribution rate of health insurance premiums as a permitted subject of bargaining for employees in a bargaining unit comprised of front-line workers, public safety or transit employees. The Governor further recommends providing position authority and associated funding to support these provisions.

2. Local Government Employee Grievance Procedures

The Governor recommends amending the statutes to require local units of government to revise employee grievance procedures to address employee discipline, workplace safety and a just cause standard of review for termination, including a refusal to renew a teaching contract. The Governor also recommends amending state statutes to require a local government employee grievance procedure to include an impartial hearing from the commission, during which the grievant would be entitled to legal representation.

3. Standard Budget Adjustments

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	23,400	0.00	24,700	0.00	23,400	0.00	24,700	0.00
TOTAL	23,400	0.00	24,700	0.00	23,400	0.00	24,700	0.00

The Governor recommends adjusting the commission's base budget for: (a) full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (\$24,200 in each year); (b) full funding of lease and directed moves costs (-\$800 in FY26 and \$500 in FY27); and (c) minor transfers within the same alpha appropriation.

