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Members of the Wisconsin Legislature,

As the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) recently completed its work on the 2017-19 Budget, I wanted to share my concern regarding the transparency of JFC motions.

For some reason, JFC motions are not listed on the Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) website at all. Consequently, as JFC members are debating a motion, members of the public cannot view what is being voted on.

Instead, the motions are printed on paper and left outside the JFC committee room, which does not help the millions of people that live outside Madison.

Should a Wisconsin resident in Superior really be expected to drive 5 hours to pick up a paper copy of a motion that was created at taxpayer expense? The answer is obviously no.

All JFC motions are public records after introduction. It makes no sense to me that as soon as a motion is publicly introduced that it would not be uploaded to the LFB website. It would take a LFB staffer about a minute or so to upload to their website.

When I spoke to LFB staff, I was told that there is nothing in state law that prohibits the LFB from posting the motions online.

A piece of legislation that would specifically address my concern is AB 448, which was introduced this session by Rep. Allen and Sen. Nass. AB 448 would require JFC motions to be publicly available 48 hours before consideration.

I support this legislation.

Nevertheless, if this bill is not passed, nothing would prevent LFB from posting all motions online anyway.

I added the last few JFC budget motions to my state website at:
<http://www.statetreasury.wisconsin.gov>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Adamczyk', written over a horizontal line.

Matt Adamczyk