



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2013 Wisconsin Act 206**  
[2013 Assembly Bill 290]

**Payment of a Claim  
by Robert Lee Stinson**

Wisconsin law authorizes the State Claims Board to hear claims against the state by individuals who have been imprisoned and claim to be innocent. The Claims Board may award no more than \$5,000 per year of imprisonment, not to exceed a total of \$25,000, for such claims. However, if the Claims Board finds that the amount it is authorized to award provides inadequate compensation in a particular case, it may submit a report to the Legislature specifying an amount which it considers adequate.

On December 28, 2010, the Claims Board submitted such a report regarding a claim by Robert Lee Stinson, who served 23 years in prison before a court vacated his conviction and sentence. The report states the Claims Board's conclusion that there is clear and convincing evidence that Robert Lee Stinson was innocent of the crime for which he was convicted, and directs \$25,000 to be paid for the claim. In addition, the report states that the \$25,000 amount is not adequate and recommends that the Legislature pay an additional \$90,000 to the claimant.

**2013 Wisconsin Act 206** directs \$90,000 to be expended to pay the claim made by Robert Lee Stinson. Together with the amount already provided by the Claims Board, that expenditure provides \$5,000 per year of imprisonment. Under the Act, the acceptance of the amount expended under the Act releases the state of further liability in the matter.

*Effective date:* The Act takes effect on April 10, 2014.

*Prepared by:* Anna Henning, Staff Attorney

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.