

STATE OF WISCONSIN Department of Employee Trust Funds

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Conlin Appointed ETF Secretary

MADISON, (Wis.) – Members of the Employee Trust Funds (ETF) Board of Trustees have announced that Robert J. Conlin, ETF's Deputy Secretary, will become the next Secretary effective January 3, 2012.

In making the announcement at today's Board meeting, Wayne Koessl, Chair of the Board, said "Bob is uniquely qualified for this position. He offers tremendous experience and leadership skills along with a deep knowledge of ETF's programs and operations."

He went on to say that "the Board is confident Bob will uphold the high standards required to safeguard the integrity of the Trust and develop and deliver quality services to members of the Wisconsin Retirement System."

Conlin has served as ETF's chief operating officer since 2007. Prior to that, he held the position of ETF's Director of Legislation, Communications and Planning for two years. Before joining the Department, Conlin worked for 13 years with the Wisconsin Legislative Council, a non-partisan agency, where he served as a Senior Staff Attorney. He also served as an assistant corporation counsel with Sauk County.

In accepting the post, Conlin said, "I look forward to working with the Board and our talented managers and staff to ensure the Wisconsin Retirement System remains strong and that ETF continues to provide quality customer service to public employees across the state."

A native of Durand, Wisconsin, Conlin has 20 years of public service experience in Wisconsin. He holds a law degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Bachelor's degree from St. John's University. He also completed Certificates of Achievement in Public Plan Policy in both Pensions and Health from the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans.

Conlin will succeed Secretary David Stella, who is retiring in January.

Additional Information on the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS):

 The WRS has over 572,200 members, including current state and local government employees and retirees. Over 1,470 units of government across Wisconsin participate in the WRS.

- The WRS has over \$79 billion in assets. The assets are invested by the State of Wisconsin Investment Board for the benefit of the WRS members.
- ETF administers WRS pension and other public employee benefits. In 2010, ETF paid out over \$3.8 billion in pension payments to retired members. Approximately 66% of those benefits were derived from investment returns.
- The WRS is the 9th largest public pension fund in the U.S. and the 30th largest in the world.