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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2003-04

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Government Operations and  
Spending Limitations...

### COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

### INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

## Assembly

### Record of Committee Proceedings

#### **Committee on Government Operations and Spending Limitations**

##### **Assembly Joint Resolution 4**

Relating to: abolishing the office of lieutenant governor (first consideration).

By Representatives Wasserman, Ziegelbauer, Bies, Kerkman, Ainsworth and Suder; cosponsored by Senator A. Lasee.

January 22, 2003      Referred to Committee on Government Operations and Spending Limitations.

February 11, 2004      **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present:    (6)      Representatives F. Lasee, Loeffelholz, Musser, Weber, Zepnick and Wasserman.

Absent:     (0)      None.

##### Appearances For

- Rep. Sheldon Wasserman, 22nd Assembly District

##### Appearances Against

- None.

##### Appearances for Information Only

- None.

##### Registrations For

- Rep. Samantha Kerkman, 66th Assembly District
- Sen. Alan Lasee, 1st Senate District

##### Registrations Against

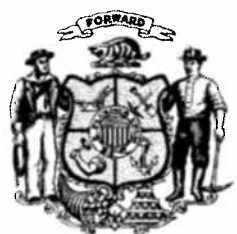
Jennie Papenthien  
Joanne Ricca, Wisconsin State AFL-CIO  
Chris Taylor, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin

March 11, 2004      Failed to adopt pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1.

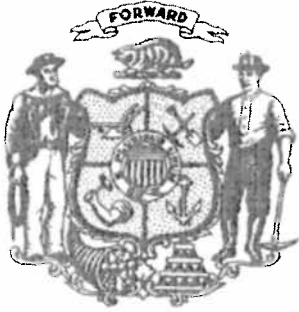
Lance Burri  
Committee Clerk



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



WISCONSIN  
STATE  
ASSEMBLY



S H E L D O N  
W A S S E R M A N  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

February 10, 2004

**Testimony of State Representative Sheldon Wasserman  
Before the Assembly Committee on  
Government Operations and Spending Limitations  
Regarding Assembly Joint Resolution 4**

Good morning, Chairman Lasee and fellow committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on AJR 4 today.

Those of you who have been around for a few years know that I have introduced a resolution to eliminate the lieutenant governor's position since I was first elected in 1995. I see this as a way to save money and downsize government, much like my recurring resolution to shrink the size of the legislature by making it unicameral.

There are eight states that currently do not have lieutenant governors. They are Arizona, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Tennessee, West Virginia and Wyoming. The duties of the lieutenant governors in the remaining 42 states vary greatly, and some are part-time. Succession is the one thing they all have in common and the most important role they play.

Over the past few years there has been a reported increase in the number of activities taken on by lieutenant governors around the country, and ours is no exception. Barbara Lawton has been one of the most active lieutenant governors that Wisconsin has ever had.

Under AJR 4 gubernatorial succession in Wisconsin would be shifted to the speaker of the assembly if the governor is unable to serve, followed by the secretary of state. Our present order of succession is the lieutenant governor, then the secretary of state. Like all resolutions to amend the constitution, it would have to pass two successive legislatures and be ratified by the people before it would go into effect.

Because this is the first session that the resolution has been given a hearing, I have introduced an amendment to ensure that politics is kept separate from any further policy action that might be taken on it. The amendment says that the current officeholder would not be affected should the resolution be adopted. In fairness to our state treasurer and state secretary, I think that the committee should introduce similar amendments to the other resolutions we are considering today.

Again, thank you for the chance to talk about AJR 4. I would be happy to answer any questions.

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