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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

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

### 2003-04

(session year)

### Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

### Committee on Education, Ethics and Elections...

### 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**

## Senate

### Record of Committee Proceedings

#### **Committee on Education, Ethics and Elections**

##### **Assembly Bill 256**

Relating to: compatible offices and positions for city, village, and town elective officeholders.

By Representatives Hundertmark, Jeskewitz, Albers, Bies, Friske, Gielow, Hines, J. Lehman, M. Lehman, Olsen, Ott and Owens; cosponsored by Senators Welch and Schultz.

October 22, 2003 Referred to Committee on Education, Ethics and Elections.

February 25, 2004 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (5) Senators Ellis, Stepp, Jauch, Robson and Hansen.  
Absent: (2) Senators S. Fitzgerald and Reynolds.

##### Appearances For

- Jason Kosten, Rep. Hundertmark

##### Appearances Against

- None.

##### Appearances for Information Only

- None.

##### Registrations For

- Curt Witynski, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Madison, WI 53703
- Senator Bob Welch

##### Registrations Against

None.

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

Michael Boerger  
Committee Clerk



## CITY OF WAUPACA

111 SOUTH MAIN STREET • WAUPACA, WISCONSIN 54981  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR TELEPHONE: (715) 258-4410

VIA FACSIMILE

February 24, 2004

Sen. Mike Ellis  
Chairman  
Education, Ethics and Elections  
19<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Room 118 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	2/24/04	# of pages	1
To	Sen. Mike Ellis	From	Henry Veletan		
Co./Dept.		Co.	City of Waupaca		
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #	(608) 267-6798	Fax #			

Dear Sen. Ellis:

RE: AB256 - Compatibility of Offices

Your committee will soon be considering the above legislation. I am writing to encourage you and your committee to vote favorably on this bill.

The city of Waupaca supports passage because, as a small community the pool of dedicated volunteers is sparse. It is not unusual for individuals from small communities to serve simultaneously on a half of dozen committees, elected bodies and volunteer groups. At our initiative, Rep. Hundertmark put forward legislation (AB256). This legislation will help out small communities all across the state of Wisconsin.

At the particular time Ms. Hundertmark and her co-sponsors put this legislation forward, the city of Waupaca was experiencing a problem. We had two (2) individuals serving on the Waupaca Common Council who also refereed soccer and baseball games through the city Recreation Department. Only after the issue was raised did we become aware that these individuals were violating the Compatibility of Office doctrine. Of course they ceased being referees once the city knew there was a problem. Worse, our city recreation program lost two very dedicated and capable referees.

The Compatibility of Office Doctrine serves a very important role in regulating ethics in local government. Building in additional flexibility for smaller communities will not erode the doctrine and will allow small communities to continue to function. Please support Wisconsin's small communities by voting this bill favorably out of committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Smith  
Mayor

CC: Sen. Bob Welch  
Rep. Jean Hundertmark





# JEAN HUNDERTMARK

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

40TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

## Testimony for Assembly Bill 256

Senate Committee on Education, Ethics & Elections

February 25, 2004

Thank you Chairman Ellis and committee members for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill (AB) 256. AB 256 was an idea brought to me by one of my city administrators based upon a problem they were having filling part time positions in their park and recreation department.

Under current law, a public elected official can also be employed as a volunteer fire fighter, emergency medical technician, or first responder in that municipality. AB 256 would expand current law to include employment as a part-time seasonal employee for a park and recreational program, if wages do not exceed \$2,500.

In many small communities throughout Wisconsin, the pool of those people who can umpire or referee athletic events or assist with other park and recreational programs is small. Often those civic-minded people serve in public official capacities.

In addition, many of our youth's first community involvement is through our local park and recreation programs. As these future leaders become more and more involved, they become interested in running for local office. Currently, they are forced to choose between helping in sports programs for children and sitting on the city council.

While this bill makes a small change in the scope of state statutes, it could make a significant impact on the quality of life in rural Wisconsin.

**Capitol Office:**

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