

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on
Housing
(AC-Ho)

File Naming Example:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- > 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- > 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- > 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

Published Documents

> Committee Hearings ... CH (Public Hearing Announcements)

> **

> Committee Reports ... CR

> **

> Executive Sessions ... ES

> **

> Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

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*Information Collected For Or
Against Proposal*

> Appointments ... Appt

> **

> Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

**

> Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

> **05hr_ab0958_AC-Ho_pt01**

> Miscellaneous ... Misc

> **



The Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin

4814 East Broadway, Madison, WI 53716 (608) 221-3821 Fax: (608) 221-4446

December 6th, 2005

Representative Steve Wieckert
P.O. Box 8953
16 West
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Rep. Wieckert,

On behalf of the members of Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin I want to thank you for your support of and willingness to introduce the Contractor Good Samaritan Protection Act.

AGC of Wisconsin has requested this legislation because in Wisconsin the liability protections offered by our current "Good Samaritan" law do not clearly cover building contractors who are requested by local officials to voluntarily bring in the equipment and personnel that is often necessary to assist in emergency rescue and recovery efforts such as those experienced on 9-11 in New York or on the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina.

Contractors who volunteer put their equipment and personnel at high risk during a recovery effort. When construction expertise is needed, there should not be anything to make the construction industry hesitant in responding to help and possibly save lives and property.

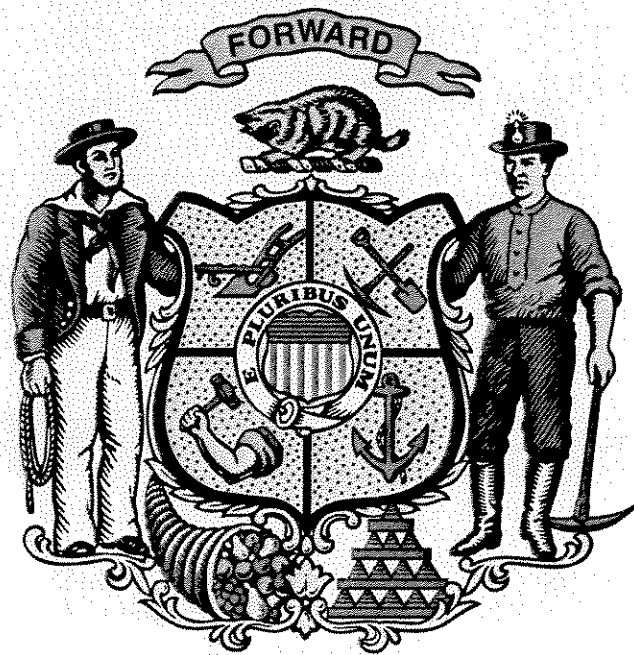
We are looking forward to working with you to secure additional cosponsors of this legislation and getting it passed and signed into law.

Please contact me if you have any questions or I can be of any further assistance on this issue.

Sincerely,

Jim Boullion

Jim Boullion
Director of Government Affairs



Testimony of State Representative Steve Wieckert

Assembly Bill 958 – Good Samaritan Act *Assembly Committee on Housing* *400 Northeast – February 9, 2006*

Good morning Chairman John Townsend and committee members. I am pleased to come before you today to discuss Assembly Bill 958, the Good Samaritan Act. This is commonsense legislation.

When there is an emergency caused by a natural disaster, such as Hurricane Katrina, accidents, or other causes most people want to do everything they can to help those in need.

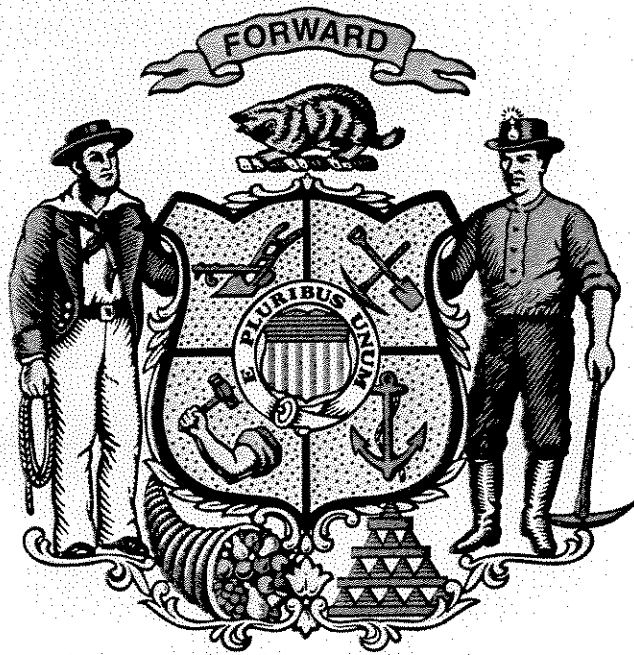
Currently, Wisconsin law provides for Good Samaritan statutes which limit the liability of someone who volunteers to help in an emergency.

This bill provides this "Good Samaritan" protection to contractors, who are often called on by state or local officials to clean up the debris and to assist in emergency rescue and recovery efforts created by a natural disaster or other cause.

These contractors, with special skills, along with their equipment, often provide invaluable service to their communities in the community's hour of need on a voluntary basis. It is the least we can do to offer them Good Samaritan protection.

This bill is supported by the Association of General Contractors of Wisconsin.

Thank you. At this time I would be happy to answer any questions of the committee.





The Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin

4814 East Broadway, Madison, WI 53716 • (608) 221-3821 • Fax: (608) 221-4446

Assembly Housing Committee

Thursday, February 9th

AB 958 – Good Samaritan Protection for Contractors

Testimony of the Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin

Presented by: Jim Boullion, Director of Government Affairs

Mr. Chairman and Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Jim Boullion, Director of Government Affairs for the Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin (AGC). AGC of Wisconsin strongly supports passage of AB 958.

AB 958 extends “Good Samaritan” liability protection to contractors in Wisconsin who volunteer to bring in workers and construction equipment, and provide other technical services at the request of local government officials who have declared an emergency to help in a disaster situation.

Our current Good Samaritan laws cover a wide range of people who are providing emergency care or are part of emergency rescue teams, but they do not extend to the contractors who can play a vital role in life saving and recovery services. This bill would not affect the liability of contractors who are hired and paid to do specific work, only to protect them from issues that might arise out of the immediate and volunteer work that is needed on short notice.

This protection is critical because the contractors on the scene of an emergency do not have time to do an in-depth analysis of the situation, or call their insurance agent or attorney to see if they are covered if anything goes wrong. When construction expertise is needed, there should not be anything to make the construction industry hesitant in responding to help and possibly save lives.

If you will permit, I would like to read a brief excerpt from a report called “Oklahoma City – 7 Years Later” that gives a description of what one Wisconsin based construction company did to help respond to the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City....

There are many other examples of contractors coming to the aid of their community. Of course, everyone is familiar with the 9/11 disaster in New York. Numerous contractors brought equipment, knowledge and expertise to help with the rescue and remediate the damage done by terrorists, but they did so without the protection of a state Good Samaritan statute. In this case Contracts were not awarded until 30 days after the attacks so there was neither payment nor insurance coverage during those imperative, but dangerous first weeks.

We urge you to pass this legislation quickly so it can be in place before the next unfortunate, but nearly inevitable day when our members will get the call to come and help.

Thank you for your attention and I would be glad to try to answer any questions you might have.