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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Veterans, Homeland Security,
Military Affairs, Small Business and Government
Reform (SC-VHSMASBGR)

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 Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform

Senate Bill 276

Relating to: expanding reimbursements to cities and villages for fire calls on certain highways.

By Senators Darling, A. Lasee, Roessler and Brown; cosponsored by Representatives Wasserman, Albers, Berceau, Gronemus, Gunderson, Krawczyk, Molepske, Musser, Ott, Petrowski, Strachota and Gielow.

August 03, 2005 Referred to Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform.

August 24, 2005 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (4) Senators Brown, Zien, Breske and Wirch.
Absent: (0) None.
Excused: (1) Senator Kanavas.

Appearances For

- Sheldon Wasserman — Representative, 22nd Assembly District
- Tom Petri — Office of Senator Darling
- Charles Myers, Menomonee Falls — North Shore Fire Department

Appearances Against

- David Vieth, Madison — Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- David Bloom, Madison — Chief, WI State Fire Chiefs Association
- Pete Christianson, Madison — Wisconsin Newspaper Association
- Curt Witynski, Madison — League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Registrations Against

- None.

September 21, 2005 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (5) Senators Brown, Zien, Kanavas, Breske and
Wirch.

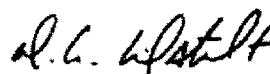
Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Brown, seconded by Senator Zien that **Senate
Bill 276** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (5) Senators Brown, Zien, Kanavas, Breske and
Wirch.

Noes: (0) None.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5, Noes 0



Daniel Lindstedt
Committee Clerk

SENATE BILL 276 (LRB -2495)

An Act to amend 61.65 (8) and 62.13 (8) of the statutes; relating to: expanding reimbursements to cities and villages for fire calls on certain highways.

2005

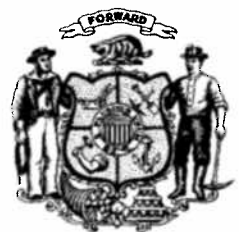
08-03.	S.	Introduced by Senators Darling, A. Lasee and Roessler ; cosponsored by Representatives Wasserman, Albers, Berceau, Gronemus, Gunderson, Krawczyk, Molepske, Musser, Ott, Petrowski and Strachota .	
08-03.	S.	Read first time and referred to committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform	312
08-24.	S.	Senator Brown added as a coauthor	330
08-24.	S.	Public hearing held.	
08-26.	S.	Fiscal estimate received.	
09-21.	S.	Executive action taken.	
10-04.	S.	Representative Gielow added as a cosponsor	387
11-01.	S.	Report passage recommended by committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform, Ayes 5, Noes 0	418
11-01.	S.	Available for scheduling.	
11-16.	S.	Withdrawn from committee on Senate Organization and rereferred to joint committee on Finance, pursuant to Senate Rule 46 (2)(c)	458

2006

01-25.	S.	Executive action taken.	
01-26.	S.	Report passage recommended by joint committee on Finance, Ayes 15, Noes 0	556
01-26.	S.	Available for scheduling.	
02-23.	S.	Placed on calendar 2-28-2006 by committee on Senate Organization.	
02-28.	S.	Read a second time	637
02-28.	S.	Ordered to a third reading	637
02-28.	S.	Rules suspended	644
02-28.	S.	Read a third time and passed , Ayes 33, Noes 0	644
02-28.	S.	Ordered immediately messaged	646
03-02.	A.	Received from Senate	880
03-02.	A.	Read first time and referred to committee on Rules	880
05-11.	A.	Failed to concur in pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1	1134



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association, Inc.

Together We Can Make A Difference

- Education
- Prevention
- Safety
- Suppression
- EMS

DATE: August 24, 2005

TO: Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform

FROM: Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association

RE: Please Support Senate Bill 276

The Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association asks that the committee members please support Senate Bill 276. This bill will treat cities, villages and townships equal regardless of the type of fire department that the community utilizes for protection. Currently township fire departments, villages having a volunteer fire department and cities having a combination or volunteer fire department are eligible for reimbursement up to \$500 for expenses incurred in responding to a fire call on state highways after attempting to collect from the responsible parties insurance company. Villages and cities with career fire departments are not eligible for the reimbursement from DOT for state highway responses. These statutes do not treat all communities equally when the response for this type of incident from the different communities is the same.

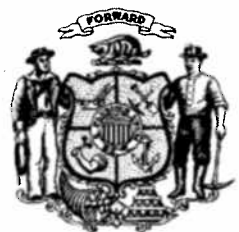
Senate Bill 276 will give cities and villages the same ability to recover their expenses for the state highway fire calls after attempting to recover the expense from the responsible parties insurance carrier. Please support Senate Bill 276.

If you have any questions please contact Dave Bloom, Legislative Liaison at 608-444-3324.

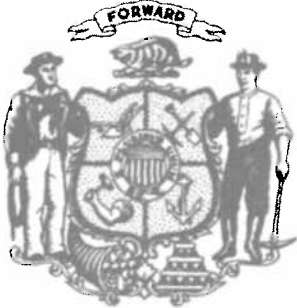
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Phone: 608-210-7261 • Fax: 608-210-7235
Email: bloomd@town.madison.wi.us



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



WISCONSIN
STATE
ASSEMBLY



S H E L D O N
WASSERMAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

August 24, 2005

**Testimony of Rep. Sheldon Wasserman
Before the Senate Committee on
Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business
and Government Reform
In Support of Senate Bill 276**

Good morning, Chairman Brown and committee members. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 276.

Senator Darling and I drafted this legislation in response to concerns brought to our attention by the North Shore Fire Department, which is a consolidated fire department located in our respective districts.

SB 276 will revise state statutes regarding reimbursement of fire assistance calls along state highways. Prior to 2003, the Department of Transportation as a matter of practice reimbursed cities, towns and villages for costs incurred for all volunteer and paid fire department calls on state highways. Then the agency decided to begin following state statutes, which do not specify that paid fire department calls along state highways by village and city fire crews are reimbursable.

There should not be a different reimbursement standard for volunteer versus paid fire department calls on state highways, nor should there be a different standard for towns apart from cities and villages. Our bill would make all fire assistance calls a reimbursable expense, and make the standard uniform for all towns, villages and cities. This is a fair and reasonable request that I hope the committee will support.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have about the proposal or my comments.

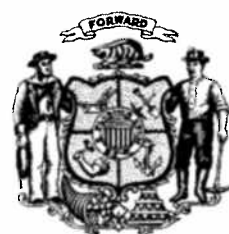
MADISON:
POST OFFICE BOX 8953
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53708
(608) 266-7671
TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1-888-534-0022
FAX: (608) 266-7038
E-MAIL: rep.wasserman@legis.state.wi.us
WEB PAGE: [http://www.legis.state.wi.us/
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HOME:
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WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





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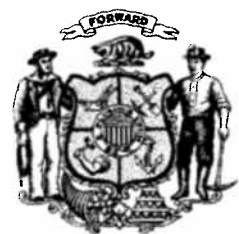
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Email: bloomd@town.madison.wi.us



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



FORWARD

Alberta Darling

Wisconsin State Senator

Joint Committee on Finance

TESTIMONY BEFORE:
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY, MILITARY
AFFAIRS, SMALL BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
SENATE BILL 276
Wednesday August 24, 2005

Good morning Chairman Brown and members of the Committee. I am pleased to sit before you today for the purpose of testifying on Senate Bill 276. SB 276, if passed, would eliminate discrepancies for reimbursement between full-time / paid and volunteer fire departments along certain state highways.

It was brought to my attention by the North Shore Fire Department (NSFD), a consolidated fire department in my district, that until recently the Department of Transportation had been reimbursing cities, towns and villages for costs incurred by all full-time / paid and volunteer fire departments who respond to calls on state highways. Recently (within the last few years), the agency has changed their interpretation of state statute, and has chosen to only reimburse the full-time / paid fire department calls made along state highways and not the volunteer departments.

In order to ensure the safety of all motorists and people involved in an accident, it is important to not maintain different reimbursement standards for volunteer versus paid, or a combination of both who are responding to emergency calls. I believe it is essential to provide equal compensation to all fire departments regardless of their status as paid or volunteer. It is simply the right thing to do. It would be extremely unfortunate if a department thought twice about responding with mutual assistance to a nearby emergency situation because of ongoing budgetary concerns or concerns relating to state reimbursement.

Volunteer fire department personnel provide the same quality of response a full-time / paid department does. To treat those departments differently is simply unfair. While I will not speculate about the DOT's motives, I can only assume they believe the dollar savings realized will help them balance their own budget in these times of fiscal restraint.

In situations where seconds can save lives, it is important not to differentiate between paid versus volunteer fire departments and their abilities to respond to emergencies in the area. Many areas of Wisconsin completely depend on volunteer departments to respond to fire calls. And because of that fact, those volunteers must be trained and equipped at the highest levels. We as state policy makers must not treat them, or the services they render with less regard.

I feel this bill is important for the safety of those who live near or travel on state highways and for the vitality of those volunteer departments that respond to those calls as needed.

Thank you again Chairmen Brown, and members of the committee.

Capitol Office: P.O. Box 7882 □ Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 □ Phone: 608-266-5830 □ Fax: 608-267-0588 □ Toll-free: 1-800-863-1113

District Office: N88 W16621 Appleton Avenue □ Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051

Email: Sen.Darling@legis.state.wi.us □ **Web page:** www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen08/news/

Records 9/15

\$ 900,000 original.
150,000 last estimate.

FORWARD
Alberta Darling
Wisconsin State Senator
Joint Committee on Finance

TESTIMONY BEFORE:
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY, MILITARY AFFAIRS, SMALL BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
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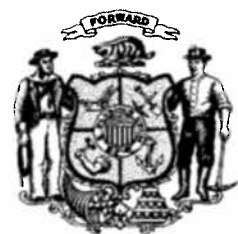
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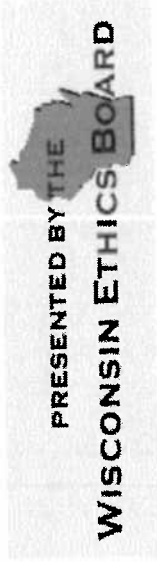
Thank you again Chairmen Brown, and members of the committee.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



- ▶ Home
- ▶ Lobbying in Wisconsin
- ▶ Organizations employing lobbyists
- ▶ Lobbyists



as of Wednesday, August 24, 2005

2005-2006 legislative session

Lobbying effort on Legislative Bills and Resolutions

(search for another legislative bill or resolution at the bottom of this page)

Text, Sponsors and Analysis
Status and Fiscal Estimate

Senate Bill 276

expanding reimbursements to cities and villages for fire calls on certain highways. (FE)

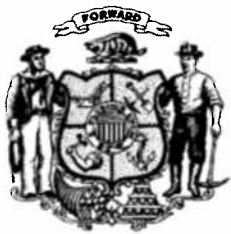
No organization has reported lobbying activity on Senate Bill 276.

Select a legislative proposal and click "go"

House	Assembly Senate
Proposal Type	Bill Joint Resolution Resolution
Proposal Number	276 (enter proposal number)
Legislative Session	2005 Regular Session <input type="button" value="Go"/>



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



- auto insurance coverage required -
 - strengthen requirement to claim -
 - Funding.

2005 SENATE BILL 276

August 3, 2005 - Introduced by Senators DARLING, A. LASEE and ROESSLER, cosponsored by Representatives WASSERMAN, ALBERS, BERCEAU, GRONEMUS, GUNDERSON, KRAWCZYK, MOLEPSKE, MUSSER, OTT, PETROWSKI and STRACHOTA. Referred to Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform.

- 1 AN ACT *to amend* 61.65 (8) and 62.13 (8) of the statutes; **relating to:** expanding
 2 reimbursements to cities and villages for fire calls on certain highways.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, if a town incurs costs for a fire call on a state trunk highway or any highway that is a part of the national system of interstate highways and maintained by the Department of Transportation (DOT), DOT is required to reimburse the town up to \$500 for the costs, even if the fire equipment is not actually used, if the town submits written proof that the town has made a reasonable effort to collect the costs from the insurer of the person to whom the fire call was provided or from the person, except that the town may attempt to collect the cost from the person only if the town is unsuccessful in its efforts to collect from the person's insurer or if the person has no insurer. If the town collects the costs from an insurer or such a person after DOT has reimbursed the town, the town is required to return the amount collected to DOT.

Also under current law, if a village has a volunteer fire department and if a city has a combination paid and volunteer fire department, DOT is required to reimburse such a village or city up to \$500 for a fire call on a state trunk highway or any highway that is a part of the national system of interstate highways and maintained by DOT. The collection procedures regarding insurers that apply to towns also apply to villages and cities.

This bill requires DOT to reimburse a village or city for such fire calls without regard to whether the fire department is paid, volunteer, or a combination paid and volunteer department.