



JOHN MURTHA

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 29th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Testimony on Assembly Bill 174
Payment of county medical examiners and medical examiner's assistants
Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs
May 21, 2013**

Good Morning Chairman Brooks and members of the Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs.

Thank you for holding a hearing today on Assembly Bill 174 (AB 174), which changes the payment of county medical examiners and medical examiner's assistants. This bill was brought to the attention of Senator Harsdorf and I by a constituent asking to help streamline the pay process for county employees thus creating a more efficient and effective government.

Currently, county employees must be paid at the end of each month unless the county board specifies that they be paid semimonthly or every two weeks. This can mean an employee who is paid semimonthly will receive their pay check on the 15th and the 30th of the month, or every two weeks which could mean every other Friday. County medical examiners and medical examiner's assistants are mandated by statute to be paid semimonthly.

AB 174 eliminates the word semimonthly from the statutes aligning the medical examiner's pay with the rest of the county employees. Though simple, this change will help to reduce excess paper work and save Wisconsin counties time and money.

This session, we have been focusing on streamlining government to reduce the amount of red tape that impedes businesses and decrease the use tax payer dollars to create a more efficient government. AB 174 holds true to this ideal and removes unneeded language to help ease the payment of all county officials.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to working with all of you on this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.



State Senator Sheila Harsdorf

Date: May 21, 2013
To: Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs
Fr: Senator Sheila Harsdorf
Re: Assembly Bill 174 – Medical Examiners

Dear Chair Brooks and Committee Members,

Thank you for holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 174 (AB 174), relating to the payment of county medical examiners and medical examiner's assistants. I regret that I am unable to testify in support of this bill in person due to another committee meeting.

Under current law, county boards may pay salaries for county employees monthly, semimonthly, or every two weeks. However, medical examiners and medical examiner assistants fall under a different statute which specifically states that these individuals must be paid semimonthly.

Due to this language, counties may be required to pay medical examiners and medical examiner assistants on a different schedule than other county employees, which can be administratively cumbersome and create additional expenses in maintaining the county payroll system.

This legislation would eliminate the requirement that medical examiners and medical examiner assistants would be paid semimonthly, providing counties with the ability to streamline the payroll process for medical examiners.

AB 174 is a common-sense change to state law that will eliminate an unnecessary restriction on counties and provide them with flexibility. I urge your support and thank you again for holding a hearing on this legislation.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs

FROM: David Callender, Legislative Associate *DC*

DATE: May 21, 2013

SUBJECT: Support for Assembly Bill 174

The Wisconsin Counties Association supports Assembly Bill 174.

Assembly Bill 174 eliminates the statutory requirement that coroners and deputy coroners be paid on a semi-monthly basis. This change gives counties more flexibility in terms of managing their payrolls.

An informal survey of counties by WCA last year found that many counties are unaware of this statutory provision and may not be complying with it. Repeal of the language would bring the statutes into compliance with what is already practice.

WCA thanks Rep. Murtha and the other co-sponsors of this bill and respectfully requests that the Committee approve it.

Please feel free to contact WCA for additional information.