

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Licensing Reform

FROM: Scott Godfrey, Director of Planning & Development, Iowa County

DATE: January 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Support for Assembly Bill 483

My name is Scott Godfrey and I have been the Director of Planning & Development for Iowa County since 1994. During that time, I have also served as President of both the WI County Code Administrators and WI County Planning & Zoning Directors. I want to sincerely thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 483.

My particular interest is Assembly Amendment 2, Section 18m, which pertains to a section of statute where an exemption to certain building code standards may be requested due to religious-based reasons. This exemption was enacted by 2015's Act 55...the state budget...and was intended to include code standards for electrical and plumbing located inside a dwelling. However, the Dept. of Safety & Professional Services has been liberally interpreting the phrase "in a dwelling" to include private septic systems as indoor plumbing. DSPS agrees that changing the word "in" to "inside" ...which this bill as amended will do...will clarify that the code exemption does not apply to a private septic system.

This bill and its amendment will resolve the current misinterpretation and promote the original intent of the building code standards exemption opportunity. Most importantly, it will promote public health and safety by protecting ground and surface water resources. Thank you and I'd be happy to address any questions.

-
- As of June 2017, 82 waivers have been granted by DSPS in 7 counties
 - The plumbing code division of DSPS had no idea the building code division was granting waivers to the need of a private septic system
 - DSPS has admitted the waivers may likely result in effluent discharging directly onto the ground or into a stream as there is no follow-through to determine how human waste is being handled
 - Even with bill, counties will remain responsible to require a private septic system when a property granted a waiver is sold or if the individual granted a waiver no longer holds the religious objection



22 EAST MIFFLIN STREET, SUITE 900
MADISON, WI 53703
TOLL FREE: 1.866.404.2700
PHONE: 608.663.7188
FAX: 608.663.7189
WWW.WICOUNTIES.ORG

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Licensing Reform

FROM: Daniel Bahr, Government Affairs Associate

DATE: January 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Support for Assembly Bill 483

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) supports Assembly Bill (AB) 483, relating to elimination of the Building Inspector Review Board and the Contractor Certification Council and requiring that the Uniform Dwelling Code Council review complaints regarding the inspection of one-family or two-family dwelling construction.

AB 483 both streamlines and provides efficiency in the complainant review process for one-family and two-family dwelling construction. In addition to the efficiencies provided, Assembly Amendment 2 to AB 483 clarifies language regarding religious exemptions for indoor plumbing and the classification of a Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS). The amendment is supported by both WCA and the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS).

The intent of the amendment is to ensure that a POWTS is not classified as indoor plumbing via legal interpretation and thus not subject to a religious exemption. In consultation with DSPS, it is our view that this amendment will correct the overly broad language originally crafted (2015 Act 55) without the intention of granting religious exemptions for POWTS.

WCA respectfully requests that the committee support AB 483 and Assembly Amendment 2.

Please feel free to contact WCA if you need additional information.



22 EAST MIFFLIN STREET, SUITE 900
MADISON, WI 53703
TOLL FREE: 1.866.404.2700
PHONE: 608.663.7188
FAX: 608.663.7189
WWW.WICOUNTIES.ORG

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Licensing Reform

FROM: Lynda Schweikert, Grant County Conservation, Sanitation and Zoning Department

DATE: January 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Support for Assembly Bill 483

My name is Lynda Schweikert and I am the Administrator of the Grant County Conservation, Sanitation and Zoning Department. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 483.

My particular interest is Assembly Amendment 2, Section 18m, which pertains to a section of statute where an exemption to certain building code standards may be requested due to religious-based reasons. AB 483 will clarify that the exemption only applies to code standards inside a dwelling and not outside, such as a code-required private septic systems.

Groundwater is the number one resource concern in Grant County, and preventing its contamination is the primary purpose of the private septic system program. Despite its legislative intent, the current language in the statute has been very liberally interpreted resulting in waivers being issued in regards to the need of a private septic system, therefore, creating a threat to public health and safety.

This bill and its amendment will resolve this confusion and promote the original intent of the building code standards exemption opportunity.

Thank you, if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.



Alliance for Regulatory Coordination

Testimony in Support of Assembly Bill 483

Before the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform

January 18, 2018

Greetings!

I am Bob DuPont, founder of the Alliance for Regulatory Coordination.

The ARC is a consortium of 18 organizations involved in building design, construction and regulatory services. Alliance membership consists of business, labor, professional, advocacy, and governmental groups; numbering thousands of members, all committed to promoting more coordinated and efficient regulatory services for citizens and businesses of Wisconsin.

The Alliance for Regulatory Coordination supports Assembly Bill 483. We believe elimination of the Building Inspector Review Board and the Contractor Certification Council will help streamline state statutes and government operations by clarifying duties of various parties and consolidating advisory duties under the Uniform Dwelling Code Council. This clarification and consolidation of duties is a form of regulatory coordination that the Alliance for Regulatory Coordination generally supports.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on this Bill.

Please see the following page for list of Alliance members.

Alliance for Regulatory Coordination

418 Blue Moon Drive, Verona, WI 53593

608-712-2398

www.4arc.org



Alliance for Regulatory Coordination

Classic Members

Associated Builders and Contractors of Wisconsin

International Association of Electrical Inspectors, Wisconsin Chapter

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, WI State Conf.

National Electrical Contractors Association, Wisconsin Chapter

Northwest Wisconsin Building Inspectors Association

Plumbers Union Local 75

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors, Wisconsin Association

Southwestern Wisconsin Building Inspectors Association

Water Quality Association of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Code Officials Alliance

Wisconsin Electrical Trades Council

Wisconsin Fire Protection Coalition

Wisconsin State Fire Chief's Association

Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors Association

Associate Members

Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association

Wisconsin Propane Gas Association

Supporting Members

International Code Council