



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 143

May 7, 2019

Thank you members of the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety for hearing Senate Bill 143 (SB 143) today.

Current law prohibits individuals from carrying electric weapons, such as Tasers, with the exception of safety professionals such as correctional officers and law enforcement officers while on duty, and concealed carry license holders. Private investigators, private detectives, and other private security personnel are able to obtain a license to carry a firearm while on duty after completing the required training and upon approval of the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board. This license however does not include electric weapons.

Senate Bill 143 adds licensed security officers, private investigators, and private detectives to the list of individuals allowed to possess these weapons while on duty. This bill is a common sense statutory fix that provides responsible weapon holders with the option to wield non-lethal weapons to protect themselves in dangerous situations that they may face while on the job. Doing so will create consistency in our laws and provide parity between trained professionals.

I urge you to support SB 143. Thank you for your consideration.

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RICK GUNDRUM

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 58TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety
Tuesday, May 7, 2019
Room 201 Southeast
Testimony on Senate Bill 143

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 143 and providing me with the opportunity to join Senator Wanggaard in testifying in favor of this legislation.

As Senator Wanggaard alluded to, Senate Bill 143 is a straightforward piece of legislation that expands the opportunity for the use of non-lethal force. The bill simply allows individuals who are already licensed by the state to carry a firearm in connection with their professional duties to also carry an electric weapon, such as a Taser, for the same purpose. This legislation provides licensed and trained security officers with the option of using a non-lethal alternative to a firearm when tasked with de-escalating a potentially dangerous situation.

Senate Bill 143 was drafted in collaboration with individuals who make a living as private detectives, investigators and security personnel. A significant number of said detectives, investigators and security professionals have transitioned from careers in law enforcement, where they were put through comprehensive training and continuing education on the principles underlying the use of force continuum.

Thank you for your time and attention, and I hope you can place your support behind this legislation. Senator Wanggaard and I would open to taking any of your questions.



MIKE ROHRKASTE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 55TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

To: Senator Wanggaard and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

From: Representative Mike Rohrkaste, 55th Assembly District

Date: May 7, 2019

Re: 2019 Senate Bill 143

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in favor of Assembly Bill 143, allowing for licensed professionals who are already carrying firearms to also carry an electric weapon like a Taser.

This legislation was brought up by industry professionals. It gives licensed security professionals a conspicuous deterrent as well as an important step in the use of force continuum.

The state of Wisconsin licenses private detectives, private investigators, and private security personnel under §440.26, Wis. stats. A further license is available to those individuals – the ability to carry a firearm while on duty. The rules for that are governed by administrative code, under chapter SPS 34. A final level of government oversight over this profession is that the firearms training guide must be approved by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board.

If an individual is vetted by all those levels of licensure, and then undergoes regular training on firearm safety and proficiency, that person will be able to carry a firearm while on duty. However, a firearm and lethal force should be thought of as a last resort. We should be allowing these individuals to de-escalate a situation if needed.

A Taser gives licensed professionals two benefits. First, a potential offender might think twice about violence or wrongdoing if that person sees a Taser on a security officer's hip – something that pepper spray may not accomplish, and that lethal force would be too extreme a response to. Second, it allows a security officer to, at a distance, utilize a response that is short of lethal force.

We are already allowing licensed security professional to carry firearms. We should give them the option to carry an electric weapon if they determine it is in their best interest. This is a good bill, and I thank both those in the field who brought it forward and this committee for its consideration.