



WISCONSIN SENATE PRESIDENT
SENATOR BRIAN D. RUDE

MEMO TO: MEMBERS, SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING AND GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS
SENATOR GWENDOLYNNE MOORE - CHAIR

FROM: SENATOR BRIAN RUDE

DATE: MARCH 11, 1998

RE: SENATE BILL 40

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of Senate Bill 40 relating to the election of certain persons to a city, village or town planning commission.

Under current law, cities and villages can create plan commissions which consist of the mayor/village president, the city/village engineer, the president of the park board, an alderperson/trustee, and three citizen members. Due to a provision contained in 62.33 (1)(b), the alderperson/trustee member of the plan commission must be elected by a two-thirds vote of the council/village board. This provision also applies to towns that have been authorized to exercise village powers.

Village officials have argued that a two-thirds vote is seldom required for matters that come before their board and as a result have asked that this provision be changed to reflect a majority vote instead. They feel this change would expedite procedures for cities, villages and affected towns throughout Wisconsin.

This is a basic change but one which needs to be enacted into law. It is a redraft of last session's SB 510 which passed the Senate on a vote of 32-1 but which unfortunately died with the end of session before the Assembly could debate the measure.

Again, thank you for scheduling a hearing on this legislation.