

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

1999-00

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on
Veterans and
Military Affairs
(AC-VMA)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

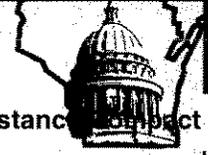
➤ **99hr_sb0176_AC-VMA_pt01**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **



Date: February 2, 2000

BACKGROUND

Under current law, the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, Division of Emergency Management, does not have the authority to share personnel, including members of the National Guard, with other states in emergency/disaster situations. Currently, states may only share equipment with other states. Ex: During the "Flood of 1993" Wisconsin could send WI National Guard water purification equipment to others states, but were not authorized to send the trained personnel to operate the equipment.

SUMMARY OF SB 176

Senate Bill 176 would authorize the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, Division of Emergency Management, to enter into compacts with other states to share personnel, including their respective National Guards members in emergency situations. The state requiring assistance will be responsible for all costs incurred by the states that provide the assistance. Certain administrative and training activities between participating states will be required. Employees, Guard members and officers of responding states will be considered agents of the requesting state for tort and liability purposes. The requesting state will provide for worker compensation if any injuries occur.

FISCAL EFFECT

A fiscal estimate prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, indicates that most activities required would be an extension of current emergency planning activities. Both state and local levels of government are continually reviewing and refining their plans, and although implementing the interstate compacts will add another option, no additional costs are anticipated. Response costs in some cases could decrease if the National Guard unit closest to the emergency is activated. It is assumed that over the long term, costs will be balanced out by cooperation received from the compact participants.

PROS

1. Availability of assistance to states in emergencies and disasters
2. Utilizing trained personnel during emergencies
3. Requesting state is responsible for costs including liability

CONS

1. Costs to the state for emergency or disaster assistance
2. State responsibility of benefits to injured members
3. Cost associated with implementing the compact

SUPPORTERS

Governor Thompson, Adjutant General James Blaney, Ed Gleason, Director of WI Division of Emergency Management, LTC Terry McArdle, DMA, Senator Moen, author, and Rep. Joe Plouff. co-author.

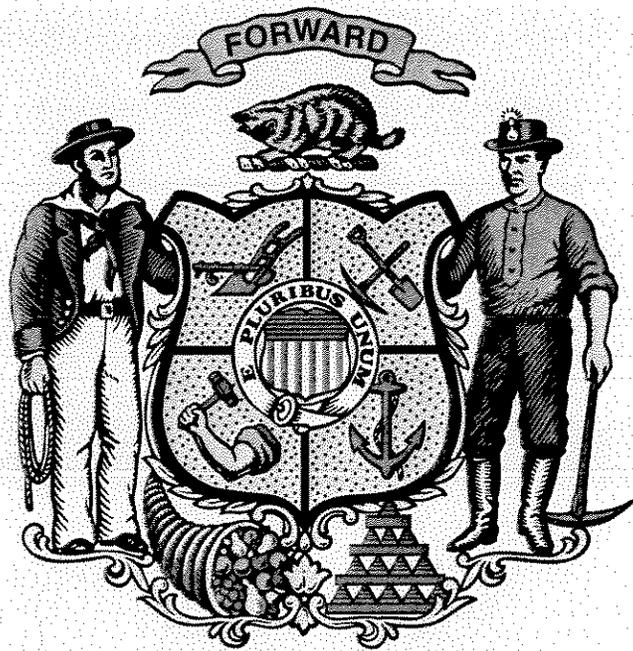
OPPOSITION

None

HISTORY

Senate Bill 176 was introduced on May 25, 1999, and referred to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations. On September 21, 1999, the Committee voted 7-0 to recommend Senate Bill 176 for passage. On October 26, 1999, the Senate passed SB 176 on a voice vote. SB 176 was messaged to the Assembly, and was referred to the Assembly Committee on Veterans & Military Affairs. A public hearing was held on December 8, 1999. On December 8, 1999, the Committee voted 6-0-3, Representatives Pettis, Boyle & Kreuser absent, to recommend concurrence of SB 176.

CONTACT: Marlene Reineking, Office of Representative Terry Musser



Alabama rejects lottery

Alabama Gov. Don Siegelman said he would listen to funding alternatives following the voters' rejection of his lottery plan Oct. 12. Siegelman had said the lottery would generate \$150 million a year for college scholarships, a pre-kindergarten program and computers in schools. After the vote, Siegelman said, "The money for those programs disappeared last night."

With a voter turnout of around 50 percent, the lottery lost by a 54 percent to 46 percent margin. Siegelman defeated former Republican Gov. Fob James in 1998 on the promise of starting a lottery for education. There are 37 states with lotteries and South Carolina plans to vote on a lottery in November 2000. For more on gaming, see *States Ante Up: Regulating Lotteries and Casinos*, CSG, (800) 800-1910.



Alabama Gov.
Don Siegelman

Poker loses in S.C.

Video poker took a big loss in South Carolina Oct. 14 when the state Supreme Court canceled the state's Nov. 2 referendum and outlawed payouts after July 1. The court ruled the referendum illegal because only the Legislature, not residents, can write laws. "The constitution does not contain a specific provision reserving to the people the power to legislate," the court held.

The video poker issue had tied up the Legislature for the past two years. The 1999 law, Act 125, out-

lawed video poker payouts as of July 1 unless approved by voters. The court upheld the ban on video gaming in *Joytime Distributors and Amusement Co., Inc. vs. South Carolina*. Gov. Jim Hodges and House Speaker David Wilkins both said new legislation would not pass. All members of the

Legislature face re-election in 2000. Only in 24 states can legislatures submit laws to voters for their approval, according to *The Book of the States, 1998-99*, page 210.

The state has an estimated 34,000 machines in casinos, bars, restaurants and stores.



South Carolina
Gov. Jim Hodges

States lend hurricane relief

Flooding from Hurricane Floyd in September may be the worst in North Carolina's history. Flooding caused 48 deaths, destroyed thousands of homes, businesses and farms, stranded thousands of people and caused an estimated \$5.5 billion worth of damage. Despite the heroic efforts of state, local and federal agencies, additional assistance has been necessary to deal with the sheer magnitude of Floyd. To get it, North Carolina, Virginia and Florida have turned to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. EMAC is an interstate mutual aid agreement that allows states to help one another and share resources during a disaster.

By mid-October, 14 states from as far away as Montana had provided assistance, including more than 300 disaster specialists, donations managers, helicopter rescue units, crisis counselors, veterinarians and public safety personnel. Without EMAC, states wishing to lend a hand face red tape and legal questions. EMAC allows states to get resources quickly. Currently, 27 states and Puerto Rico have approved the compact, which receives administrative support from the National Emergency Management Association, housed with The Council of State Governments. For more, check out www.nemaweb.org.

Who votes first?

New Hampshire Secretary of State Bill Gardner announced the state would hold its primary on Feb. 1, citing a law requiring the primary to be held a full week before any other state's. Afterward, Iowa changed its presidential caucuses from Jan. 31 to Jan. 24. Traditionally Iowa's caucuses have been held eight days before New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation presidential primary. Meanwhile, Louisiana Republicans changed their caucus to Jan. 15.

Crime rates fall

The nation's crime rate fell for the seventh consecutive year, according to 1998 statistics released by the FBI in October. About 1.5 million violent crimes were reported in 1998, a decrease of 6 percent from 1997 and

the lowest rate since 1987. Firearms were used in 65 percent of homicides, down slightly from 1997. Attorney General Janet Reno said, "There is no one reason for the continued drop in crime."



Emergency Management Assistance Compact

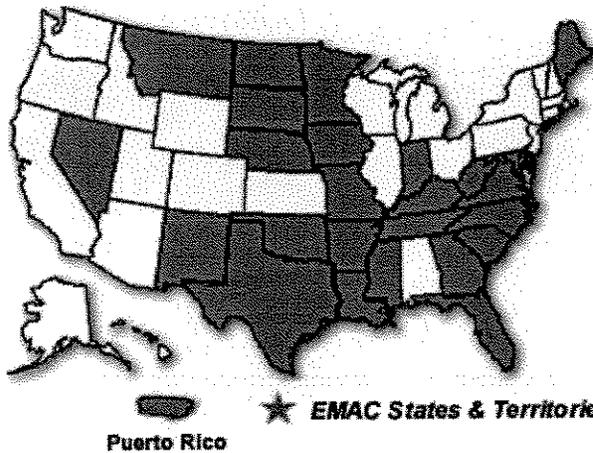
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Member States

Since being approved by Congress in 1996 as Public Law 104-321, twenty-seven states and one territory have ratified EMAC, and several other states are in the process. The only requirement for joining is for a state's legislature to simply ratify the language of the compact. States are not even required to assist other states unless they're able.



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