

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

SSA

DATE: 2-21-01

BILL NO. SB 19

SUBJECT _____

(NAME) Steve ADA Bergman

(Street Address or Route Number) _____

(City and Zip Code) _____

(Representing) _____

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 2/21/01

BILL NO. SB 19

SUBJECT _____

(NAME) Ernie Stetefeld

(Street Address or Route Number) 8030 Excelsior Drive

(City and Zip Code) Madison, WI 53717

(Representing) WPA Wisconsin

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 2/21/01

BILL NO. 19

SUBJECT _____

(NAME) Steve West

(Street Address or Route Number) 382 N 3rd St

(City and Zip Code) Madison WI 53704

(Representing) self

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 2-21-01

BILL NO. SB19

OR
SUBJECT _____

(NAME) John Ainsworth

(Street Address or Route Number) _____

(City and Zip Code) _____

(Representing) _____

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor: _____

but not speaking:

Registering Against: _____

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 2/21/2001

BILL NO. 19

OR
SUBJECT _____

(NAME) Nanlyn Windschieg

(Street Address or Route Number) 330 E. Lakeside St

(City and Zip Code) Madison, 53715

(Representing) State Medical Society

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor: _____

but not speaking:

Registering Against: _____

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 2/21/01

BILL NO. SB ~~18~~ 19

OR
SUBJECT headlights & mirrors

(NAME) Dennis Kruger

(Street Address or Route Number) 566 Concord

(City and Zip Code) Oregon, WI 53575

(Representing) WI Troopers Assoc

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor: _____

but not speaking:

Registering Against: _____

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger **PROMPTLY**.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 2.21.01

BILL NO. SB 19

OR

SUBJECT _____

(NAME) Marc Bentley

(Street Address or Route Number) 562 Grand Canyon

(City and Zip Code) Madison WI.

(Representing) WI Motor Carriers

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger **PROMPTLY.**

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 2/21/01

BILL NO. SB 19

OR

SUBJECT _____

(NAME) _____

(Street Address or Route Number) _____

(City and Zip Code) _____

(Representing) DOT / State Patrol

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger **PROMPTLY.**

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882



State Senator
James R. Baumgart

State Capitol: P. O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 • Telephone (608) 266-2056
Toll-free: 1-888-295-8750 • E-Mail: sen.baumgart@legis.state.wi.us

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, TOURISM
AND TRANSPORTATION**

STATEMENT OF SENATOR JIM BAUMGART - PUBLIC HEARING

SENATE BILL 19, relating to requiring headlights and other required lamps on vehicles to be lighted while windshield wipers are being used.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss Senate Bill 19 – a bill that will increase automobile and pedestrian safety.

I have introduced a substitute amendment to SB 19, which makes the bill more user friendly. The intent of the legislation remains the same but the administration and implementation of the law has been made easier. The section in the statutes that this bill would be added to relates to all lighting violations and the entire section has a three demerit point penalty for all included violations. I am concerned that when a police officer writes a citation for this type of violation they may not differentiate between this violation and others in the same section and the demerit points will be deducted which is a penalty that is not in this bill. Therefore, the substitute amendment takes the violation out of State Statute 347.06 and creates 347.065.

About three years ago, I was up in Rhinelander for a public hearing that required an overnight stay. I am normally up early and travel around the countryside. Because it was rainy and overcast, I stopped at a number of places within the community. Something bothered me greatly that day. Cars were coming into town from Highway 47 or 17 and I noticed that those cars without lights on were almost undetectable. With a background of rain, heavy overcast and dark blacktop pavement, they were nearly invisible at a time the school kids were starting to move. Their lights should have been on!

This bill has been before us many times. Last session this Legislation passed the Senate and was recommended for passage by the Assembly Transportation Committee. With the increasing number of cars that now have lights that automatically turn on when the vehicle is started I believe that now is the opportune time to move this legislation because it will provide a uniformity that will make driving safer.

Not so long ago we raised the speed limit on some roads from 55 to 65mph. That additional speed, especially during inclement weather, is another reason to move forward to pass Senate Bill 19.

At least 9 states have the requirements for the use of lights when it is raining including Minnesota. At least once a year, I drive Minnesota highways and I find that the system seems to work well. In Illinois, there was a 22% drop in injury accidents statewide the first year.

We are a state with a lot of inclement weather, rain, snow and heavy fog. We should use our lights. It is the safe thing to do. This bill, using windshield wipers as a guide, will do just that.

Good Morning Chairman Breske and
Committee Members:

As a bus driver and former trucker, I have noticed many drivers on Wisconsin highways who often fail to use to use their headlights during inclement weather conditions. This makes these unlit vehicles very hard to see both through my windows and in my mirrors.

In March, I was featured on the front page of Madison's Wisconsin State Journal's "Local" page. The newspaper writer dubbed this proposed law, "Vincent's Bill". The article discusses how I've been advocating for this highway safety measure since high school.

In the January 26, 2001 edition of the Madison Isthmus newspaper's News &

Comment Page titled, "The Legislature, Bills that won't die" states that "the effort to require automobile headlights whenever windshield wipers are running has shown a considerable staying power. Despite a series of defeats due to legislation indifference, the idea keeps coming back, and gathering strength. This session, the prospects for passage seem better than ever."

This legislation will help insure the safety of drivers and pedestrians on days when the vision of the driver may be impaired by adverse weather conditions.

Please support Senate Bill 19. Thank you for your time and support!

Sincerely,

Steve Vincent



8030 Excelsior Drive
P.O. Box 33
Madison, WI 53701-0033
608/836-6555
800/236-1300

Feb 21, 2001

TO: Sen. Roger Breske, Chairman,
and Members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism and Transportation

FROM: Ernie Stetenfeld ,
AAA Wisconsin Vice President, Corporate Relations (608/828-2487)

RE: AAA Wisconsin Support for Senate Bill 19 ("wipers-on/lights-on")

Good morning, Chairman Breske and members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to express AAA's support for S.B. 19, which would give Wisconsin a common-sense, readily understandable, safety-enhancing "wipers-on/lights-on" law. On behalf of AAA Wisconsin—representing the motoring and travel interests of the more than 578,000 AAA members in our state—I strongly urge you to give this legislation your favorable consideration.

This bill is, as you know, a "perennial." As you are also likely aware, a similar bill, 1999 Senate Bill 4, was passed by the Senate and concurred in by the Assembly Highway Safety Committee in the last legislative session. Because this measure touches on a practice that seems to be simple common sense, at points some have even cast it as unimportant, however. Quite to the contrary, AAA holds that this sort of law can have a highly positive impact in reinforcing appropriate driver practice when visual conspicuity is most important—in bad weather. AAA Wisconsin, therefore, strongly urges your support for S.B. 19.

Since 1992, the national policy of the AAA federation of motor clubs has favored state governments requiring motorists to activate their vehicle's headlights when the vehicle's windshield wipers are in operation. AAA's position on this issue stems from the common-sense understanding that it is important for safety's sake that motorists use their headlights when visibility is reduced due to rain or other precipitation. Such a "wipers-on/lights-on" law avoids, however, the need to define "precipitation" or the amount of it that necessitates headlight use. This is a useful simplification. Wipers-on/lights-on is an idea that AAA believes would lodge readily in the minds of Wisconsin motorists. It is an idea about which, I believe, highway safety advocates would find it relatively easy to educate the state's driving public. And it is an idea that would improve traffic safety in our state. After enduring 803 traffic fatalities in Wisconsin last year, this is improvement our state could use.

Late last year, AAA Wisconsin conducted an opinion survey among a random sample of our members. In that survey we asked several questions related to traffic safety and potential legislation intended to improve it. Of 543 randomly selected members who completed this mail survey, 529 answered this question:

Would you favor or oppose a "wipers-on/lights-on" law requiring the use of headlights when a vehicle's windshield wipers are in use (other than for simple windshield cleaning)?

Fully 76 percent of respondents indicated they favored such a wipers-on/lights-on law; 24 percent were opposed.

(--MORE--)

AAA WISCONSIN--SUPPORT FOR S.B. 19--PAGE TWO

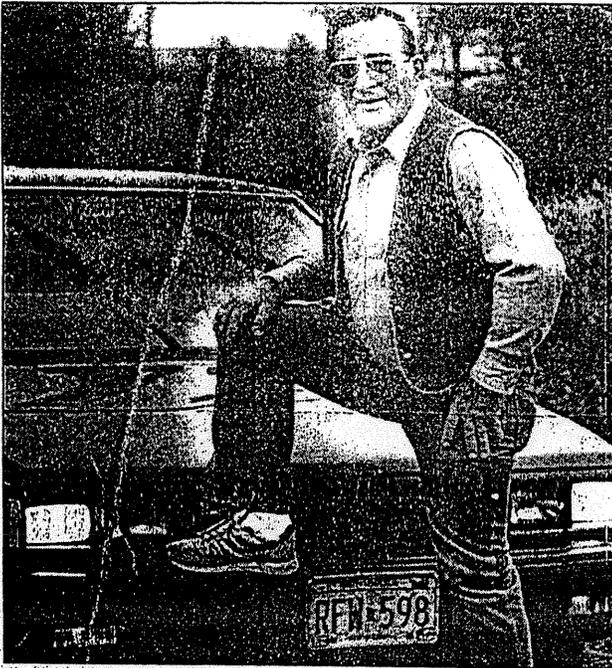
I believe one reason our members support a wipers-on/lights-on law is because they experience too many drivers not using headlamps in bad weather. Also, please note our members expressed their support even without mention of the secondary-enforcement-only aspect of S.B. 19 and the fact that under the bill convictions for not having the required lamps lighted could not be noted on the motorist's driving record.

At least 14 states--Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia--have some form of wipers-on/lights-on law. Illinois put its wipers-on/lights-on law into effect on Jan. 1, 1994. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety reported that, subsequently, a traffic studies engineer with the Illinois Department of Transportation analyzed wet-weather crashes in that state before and after the law. That analysis indicated that the law was having a significant impact on wet-weather crash-reduction. He reported that between 1990 and 1993, Illinois experienced an annual average of 97,065 crashes during wet weather. During 1994 and 1995, the annual average number of wet-weather crashes was 65,982, a dramatic decrease. This crash reduction--with at least some part of it attributable to the change in law--represented a savings of about \$325 million per year in crash-related costs. More importantly, this crash reduction meant lives were saved and injuries were reduced, and the wipers-on/lights-on law helped to make it so.

One of the real benefits of a wipers-on/lights-on law would be the ease with which it can be communicated to and understood by all motorists. The law would reduce ambiguity about times when headlamp use is required for safe driving. AAA Wisconsin would welcome the opportunity to use our member magazine, *Home & Away*--which circulates to more than 360,000 Wisconsin households--to help educate the motoring public about this common-sense change.

AAA Wisconsin urges your support for S.B. 19, and I thank you for considering AAA's position on this issue.

Bright idea



AP photo

Al Moorhouse, a former trucker, was the driving force behind Minnesota's new headlight law. As of Aug. 1, all vehicles are required to use headlights during inclement weather.

Sioux Falls Argus Leader

Former trucker sparks Minn. headlight law

CANNON FALLS, Minn. (AP)—Al Moorhouse used his grassroots idea to turn on the lights of state government.

Moorhouse started the legislation that now requires motorists to use headlights in inclement weather. The law went into effect Aug. 1.

Moorhouse, 59, Cannon Falls, said that during his years as a truck driver he appreciated similar laws in about 10 other states. Early this year he got the idea of approaching Sen. Lyle Mehrkens, R-Red Wing, to implement the law in Minnesota. Mehrkens' staff took to the suggestion and legislative process started.

"What amazed me was how this state's legislators and the truckers' association and everybody got involved. Even the governor patted me on the back," Moorhouse said. "I'm also amazed at how fast this worked."

Following the instructions of one of Mehrkens's aides, Moorhouse sent a letter to the office detailing what he thought the law should entail. The idea was simple. All motorists would turn on their headlights under any inclement condition—smoke, blowing dust, ground blizzards and more.

"Up here we've got rain, fog, snow, the whole bit," Moorhouse said. "The first thing you see on a rainy day coming down the road is headlights."

With little delay, the state sen-

In Minnesota

ator sent a draft of the bill back to Moorhouse. Meanwhile, Rep. Steve Sviggum, R-Kenyon, coauthored the bill's counterpart in the House. By the end of the session, it became law.

Moorhouse called his idea "common sense."

"A lot of people wondered why it wasn't done earlier. I do, too," he said. "Georgia was the first place I really noticed it. Seventeen drops of water on the windshield and everybody has their lights on. Beautiful."

Some people still do not realize they must turn on headlights when it starts to drizzle. Others choose to skip the headlights if they are just making a short trip, but those are the times people need help the most, Moorhouse said.

"When are the accidents? Twenty-five miles within home," he said.

Moorhouse would like to see other driving laws implemented. He has participated in 55 Alive driving classes. Those classes are voluntary, but he supports mandatory retesting for all drivers at some point. People forget laws, fail to use turn signals and speed, he said. They need reminders.

"It boils right down to bad driving habits," he said.

Minnesota "inclement weather, lights-on" law took effect on August 1, 1990.
Sioux Falls Argus Leader,
Sioux Falls, MN,
November 6, 1990

Windshield wiper activist may win

'Lights on' bill shows signs of life at Capitol

By Scott Milfred
Legislative reporter

Steve Vincent thinks he has a bright idea that may finally light up at the state Capitol after 25 years of writing letters and bending ears.

Vincent, 43, of Madison, is pushing a bill that would require Wisconsin motorists to turn on their headlights whenever they activate their windshield wipers.

The proposed law, which some lawmakers dismiss as common sense,

would nonetheless prod more drivers to switch on their lights when it's raining, snowing, sleet or otherwise hard to see, Vincent said.

He started pushing the idea back in high school in the mid-'70s and hasn't let up. Twenty-five years of driving semitrucks, delivery vans and rental cars across Wisconsin and the nation has convinced him that accidents and injuries could be prevented if more cars were visible in bad weather.

"It's not so people will get a ticket," Vincent said. "It's more of an education thing. When you pass a law, people just seem to do it."

The proposal has wallowed in legislative committees for decades. But late last year, with some fine tuning, it passed the Senate on a 20-13 vote. It cleared the Assembly Highway Committee for the first time on a 6-1 vote

this month and could be scheduled for a final Assembly vote next week.

"This is probably the least onerous of all of the versions brought forward," said Rep. David Brandemuehl, R-Fennimore, who has repeatedly opposed the bill in the past but now supports it.

Current law requires motorists to turn on their headlights "during the hours of darkness." Violators can be fined \$10 to \$20 for their first offense, and \$25 to \$50 for a second offense within a year of the first.

Vincent's bill, with supporters including Sen. James Baumgart, D-Sheboygan, and Rep. John Almsworth, R-Shawano, would issue the same fines for failing to turn on lights when using windshield wipers. Drivers would be exempt from the law when

Please see WIPERS, Page 7C



CRAIG SCHREINER/WJSJ photo
For years, Steve Vincent of Madison has been pushing legislation that would require motorists to turn on their headlights whenever they use their windshield wipers.

Wipers

Continued from Page 1C

temporarily using wipers to clean windshields. Brandemuehl, a member of the Highway Committee for 14 years, noted that the current version of the bill would prohibit police officers from pulling over drivers solely for not using headlights with wipers. Drivers would have to be stopped for some other reason, such as speeding or an accident. Brandemuehl also is happy that the bill places no mandates on vehicle manufacturers to build cars that automatically turn on headlights with wipers. "I don't think it's going to change much," Brandemuehl said of the bill, "but some people will pay attention to it if they know it's the law."

Vincent's research suggests at least 33 states have similar rules. Illinois started requiring that lights be turned on with wipers in 1994. Violators in Illinois can be fined \$75. Minnesota has required that motorists use headlights during inclement weather since 1990. Violators there can be fined \$100.

Vincent, who now works for a Madison rental car company, said he's noticed that more motorists seem to use headlights in Illinois than Wisconsin. The Illinois Department of Transportation agrees and sees positive results.

Rich Meyers, a traffic safety specialist for the state of Illinois, said the number of crashes during inclement weather dropped from 15 percent to 13 percent the year after the headlights-with-wipers bill passed.

"I see this decrease occurring in the face of more vehicles out there traveling more miles," Meyers said. "There are certainly more people who have their headlights on now when the weather conditions are inclement as a result of the law."

The American Automobile Association of Wisconsin is lobbying for the cause. AIA randomly surveyed 661 of its 540,000 members in the state and found that 70 percent support the bill.

Rep. Steve Pott, R-Oconomowoc, the No. 2 Republican leader in the Assembly, said he hasn't scheduled the bill for a final vote. But he might if the bill's sponsors ask him to, he said. The Legislature is scheduled to adjourn for the year Thursday.

Vincent recently visited the Capitol for a final round of lobbying leaders. If his bill isn't taken up by the full Assembly, he'll continue the fight next session, he said.

"I just think it's a good idea," he said. "I don't understand why it's so difficult. Don't give up, and I'm not going to."

Vote Record

Senate - Committee on Insurance, Tourism, and Transportation

Date: 2/21/01
 Moved by: Baumgart Seconded by: Farrow
 Clearinghouse Rule: _____
 Appointment: _____
 Other: _____

AB: _____ SB: _____
 AJR: _____ SJR: _____
 AR: _____ SR: _____

A/S Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____
 A/S Sub Amdt: 1
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage
- Introduction
- Adoption
- Rejection

- Indefinite Postponement
- Tabling
- Concurrence
- Nonconcurrence
- Confirmation

Committee Member

Sen. Roger Breske, Chair
 Sen. Richard Grobschmidt
 Sen. Jim Baumgart
 Sen. Alan Lasee
 Sen. Margaret Farrow

	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Sen. Roger Breske, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Richard Grobschmidt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Jim Baumgart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Alan Lasee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Margaret Farrow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 5 _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Vote Record

Senate - Committee on Insurance, Tourism, and Transportation

Date: 2/21/01
 Moved by: Baumgart Seconded by: Farrow & Grobschmidt
 Clearinghouse Rule: _____
 Appointment: _____
 Other: _____

AB: _____ SB: 19
 AJR: _____ SJR: _____
 AR: _____ SR: _____

A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____
 A/S Sub Amdt: 1 to A/S Sub Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____

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Committee Member

Sen. Roger Breske, Chair
 Sen. Richard Grobschmidt
 Sen. Jim Baumgart
 Sen. Alan Lasee
 Sen. Margaret Farrow

	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Sen. Roger Breske, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Richard Grobschmidt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Jim Baumgart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Alan Lasee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Margaret Farrow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 5 _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Vote Record

Senate - Committee on Insurance, Tourism, and Transportation

Date: 2/21/01
 Moved by: Baumgart Seconded by: Grobschmidt
 Clearinghouse Rule: _____
 AB: _____ SB: 19 Appointment: _____
 AJR: _____ SJR: _____ Other: _____
 AR: _____ SR: _____

A/S Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____
 A/S Sub Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage
- Introduction
- Adoption
- Rejection

- Indefinite Postponement
- Tabling
- Concurrence
- Nonconcurrence
- Confirmation

Committee Member

Sen. Roger Breske, Chair
 Sen. Richard Grobschmidt
 Sen. Jim Baumgart
 Sen. Alan Lasee
 Sen. Margaret Farrow

	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Sen. Roger Breske, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Richard Grobschmidt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Jim Baumgart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Alan Lasee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Margaret Farrow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 4 1 _____ _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed