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Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882	Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:	Registering in Favor: but <u>not</u> speaking:  Registering Against: but <u>not</u> speaking:	Speaking in Favor:  Speaking Against:	Crecon W± 53575 (City and Zip Code)  W± Troopens H550C (Representing)	(NAME) SOBE CONCORD OX (Street Address or Route Number)	LSUBJECT TROPPER HATTERITY	SENATE HEARING SLIP  Represe Print Plainly)  DATE: 3-5.02
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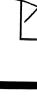
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Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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## Senate Committee on Judiciary, Consumer Affairs and Campaign <u>Finance Reform</u>

Request for Paper Ballot Executive Action on 2001 Senate Bill 425

The Senate Committee on Judiciary, Consumer Affairs and Campaign Finance Reform was unable to hold a formal Executive Session on Senate Bill 425 as planned. We would like to conduct a paper ballot on the bill. Please return your ballot to Sen. George's office (Room 118 South) by 5:00 PM Friday, March 8, 2002.

<b>Passage</b>	of	Senate	Bill	425	:
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Moved	(Optional Please check if you wish to Move Passage of the Bill)
Seconded	(Optional Please check if you wish to Second Passage of the Bill)
Aye	(In Favor of Passage of the Bill)
No	(Oppose Passage of the Bill )
Signed:	hygels ( Friday, March 8, 2002

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Passage of Senate Bi	ll 425 :		
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	_Seconded	(Optional Please cl Passage of the Bill)	heck if you wish to Second
	Aye	(In Favor of Passage of	of the Bill)
and the state of t	No	(Oppose Passage of the	ne Bill )
Signed: Libert (	V. Win	ch	Friday, March 8, 2002

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Passage	e of Senate B	3111 425 :			
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_	Χ	Aye	(In Favor of Passage	of the Bill)	
-	11 (20 E VV + 9 - 1995) 1 (20 E VV + 9 - 1995) 2 (20 E VV + 9 - 1995)	No	(Oppose Passage of	the Bill )	
Signed:	By PR	ne blue	lsman	Friday, March 8, 2002	

## Senate Committee on Judiciary, Consumer Affairs and Campaign Finance Reform Consumer Affairs and Campaign

## Request for Paper Ballot Executive Action on 2001 Assembly Bill 425

The Senate Committee on Judiciary, Consumer Affairs and Campaign Finance Reform was unable to hold a formal Executive Session on Assembly Bill 425 as planned. We would like to conduct a paper ballot on the bill. Please return your ballot to Sen. George's office (Room 118 South) by 5:00 PM Friday, March 8, 2002.

Concurrence	in	<b>Assembly</b>	Bill	425:
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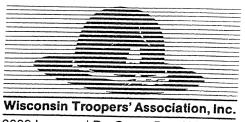
Moved	(Optional Please check if you wish to Move Concurrence in the Bill)
Seconded	(Optional Please check if you wish to Second Concurrence in the Bill)
Aye	(In Favor of Concurrence in the Bill)
No	(Oppose Concurrence in the Bill)
Signed:	Friday, March 8, 2002

## Senate Committee on Judiciary, Consumer Affairs and Campaign Finance Reform Request for Paper Ballot Executive Action on 2001 Senate Bill 425

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Passaş	ge of Senate Bill 425 :	
	Moved	(Optional Please check if you wish to Move Passage of the Bill)
	Seconded	(Optional Please check if you wish to Second Passage of the Bill)
	Aye	(In Favor of Passage of the Bill)
	No	(Oppose Passage of the Bill )
Signed	Fred	Friday, March 8, 2002

**Executive Director** Casey Perry caseyperry@juno.com



2099 Ironwood Dr, Green Bay, WI 54304 1-800-232-1392

To:

Chairman Gary George and Committee Members

From: Expert Crash Reconstructionist Timothy Austin and Duane Meyers

Date: March 5, 2002

Re:

SENATE BILL 425 -CLARIFYING TROOPER AUTHORITY

During a brisk mid-October day in 2000, the congregation of a Lutheran church in Black Creek, Wisconsin, gathered in prayer. Their faith held them together as they lay to rest their pastors, the Reverend David and Audrey Several nights earlier, the ministers' lives of dedicated compassion and service were tragically extinguished by the decisions of an intoxicated twenty-three year old. As one member of the church expressed, the community, church, and Kiecker family all lost and suffered at the hands of the young driver. He had sought a good time that evening, but instead sent himself on a course of human devastation, destruction, and death.

- Reprinted from the Wisconsin Trooper, Winter 2001 Issue

Since the early 1970's, troopers and inspectors have trained in various capacities to serve as crash reconstruction experts. Specialized courses in Vehicle Dynamics and Crash Reconstruction serve as the basis for their education. From here, further instruction in such areas as pedestrian, motorcycle, bicycle, and heavy truck crashes are obtained through further coursework or training conferences. Oftentimes, dedicated officers attend outside training opportunities using their own resources. This past year, for example, troopers attended conferences in Michigan, Illinois, and Florida at no cost to the state. By doing so, these officers were educated in rollover accidents, human factors, and vehicle crush analysis. The ongoing training required for the crash reconstruction discipline sets these officers apart by making them experts in their field.

From the program's inception, Wisconsin State Patrol crash reconstructionists have built strong partnerships with local police and sheriff's departments, district attorney's offices, schools, and private businesses. Troopers work closely with local and federal law enforcement agencies in their reconstruction efforts. Oftentimes, because of the advanced technical nature of a thorough reconstruction, the investigation can take several weeks or even months to complete. The final reconstruction investigation package is ultimately provided to the appropriate prosecutor for a review of potential criminal charges.

In criminal proceedings, reconstruction specialists provide testimony to help jurors understand the complex dynamics of the collision at hand. Using such tools as Microsoft Powerpoint® software, each stage of the investigation is laid out and presented. Large-scale diagrams are also generated, in order to better offer an overview of the collision scene and/or sequence of events leading to the crash. As such, State Patrol reconstructionists have often been recognized as having expert status in our circuit court system. It is noteworthy that opposing defense experts are usually engineers who specialize in this same field, charging clients thousands of dollars for each case.



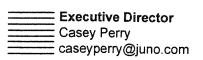
Our crash reconstructions have not only found justice for the victims of crime, but they have also helped save taxpayers considerable sums of money. Oftentimes, because of a thorough investigation, a trial becomes unnecessary as defendants simply plea "guilty" to avoid a potentially damaging trial. Not only does this spare the victims' families from the intense emotions of a court proceeding, but it also frees the court from the expense and time of a criminal trial. The same is true in civil cases, as settlements are, at times, reached before a trial date is even set.

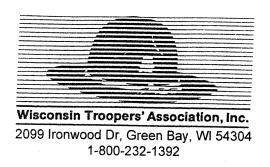
In opening this letter, we quoted rather powerful and thought provoking words taken from a recent magazine article that you may have already read. But yet, tragedies such as the described Outagamie County fatality occur regularly throughout the nation. The Kieckers left behind three daughters, one of whom had been recently engaged to be married. Her father, however, was prevented from walking her down the aisle by a drunk named Joel "Red" Furst. Later, Furst would claim that he was not at fault, and hired a defense attorney that would try to sell that claim to a jury. Sound familiar? There are Joel Fursts in every county in our state. These are the drunk drivers who think nothing of ending lives and ruining families. Fortunately, in the case of the real Joel Furst, the jury of his peers saw through his lies and unanimously gave the verdict that sent him to prison.

The list, of course, goes on and on. Michelle Thein's intoxicated killer in Winnebago County was sentenced to forty years for her death. Paul Nigl, who killed two beloved mothers in the same county, received sixty years for his alcohol and cocaine fed driving. On the other side of the state, in Ashland County, a drunk named Paul Mosbaugh crossed the centerline and killed an elderly couple. Following a thorough investigation and crash reconstruction, he pled guilty to homicide charges. Mosbaugh is presently serving out his forty-year sentence in prison. If we were to examine all of these cases, one common thread would tie them all together – that being a quality investigation leaving the defense no opening.

Joel Furst claimed that the Kiecker's did not have their headlamps on. Paul Nigl stated that the women he killed were on the wrong side of the road. The excuses seem endless and almost unfair. It is for this reason that the Wisconsin State Patrol trains select officers in the field of crash reconstruction. By searching for the truth in pieces of twisted metal and piles of debris, these experts are able to determine how and often why a collision occurs. Whether it be for the purpose of prosecuting an intoxicated killer, determining highway safety issues, or helping a grieving family by offering answers, the professionalism of these officers is truly invaluable to the citizens of Wisconsin.

Therefore, because of the crucial services provided by Wisconsin State Patrol crash reconstructionists to district attorneys and other law enforcement agencies, the importance of the "Authority Clarification Bill," SB 425, cannot be overstated. We have built tremendous partnerships across the state, with goals centered on completing thorough and competent crash investigations. However, we need your help in order to continue to provide these important services. Current law is ambiguous with regard to our authority, which has led to conflict during at least one high-profile criminal investigation. It is for this reason that we ask you to support our program and this senate bill.





5B425

## Clarification of Troopers' Investigative Authority

Wisconsin's state law enforcement officers serve to protect our citizens and promote public safety. This includes ensuring traffic related criminal activity is thoroughly investigated. Clarifying the troopers' investigative authority will ensure the continuation of comprehensive investigations of traffic violations and accidents and further increase safety on Wisconsin's highways.

### Troopers' Already Investigate

• State troopers have traditionally performed investigative work for traffic related violations and accidents (e.g. OWI offenses). For example, state patrol officers obtain blood samples and provide technical crash scene reconstruction.

## Current Statute Limits Ability to Properly Investigate Traffic Related Crimes

- Traffic violations have become crimes. Over the past several years, penalties have significantly increased for OWI offenses and other traffic related violations resulting in accidents. Today, a number of those offenses are considered crimes, whereas in the past they were not so classified. As a result, for certain traffic related violations, it could be that under Wisconsin Statutes troopers "technically" do not have the right to investigate these violations.
- Prosecutors not able to use crash reconstruction experts. Wisconsin prosecutors often times call upon the expertise of the State Patrol's crash reconstruction experts to assist with crash scene investigations. However, because state statute is unclear, there is potential for crash scene reconstruction and other evidence collected by troopers to be dismissed in court.

## Clarification of Troopers' Investigative Authority

• This bill clarifies that state troopers may conduct investigations relating to violations of any law for which the troopers' are granted enforcement powers. The bill specifies that troopers may not conduct investigations from crimes that are unrelated to the use or operation of vehicles.

## Not an Expansion of Authority

• This clarification is not intended to expand the troopers' authority. Rather, it is an attempt to clarify in statute the investigative authority that has been traditionally given to troopers.

