

2003 ASSEMBLY BILL 31

February 5, 2003 – Introduced by Representatives M. LEHMAN, J. FITZGERALD, BALOW, KERKMAN, VRAKAS, HUBER, OTT, LADWIG, MILLER, KREIBICH, PLOUFF, KRAWCZYK, WEBER, BIES, SHERMAN, GROTHMAN, GIELOW, TURNER, GUNDERSON, OLSEN, HAHN, MCCORMICK, BLACK, UNDERHEIM, HUNDERTMARK, MUSSER, GUNDRUM, W. WOOD, COGGS, STONE, FREESE, OWENS, TOWNSEND, WASSERMAN, POCAN, VAN AKKEREN, J. LEHMAN, BOYLE, ALBERS, BERCEAU and STEINBRINK, cosponsored by Senators KANAVAS, S. FITZGERALD, ROESSLER, DARLING, LEIBHAM, CARPENTER, KEDZIE, STEPP, COWLES, LAZICH, DECKER, HANSEN, SCHULTZ, BRESKE and WIRCH. Referred to Committee on Government Operations and Spending Limitations.

1 AN ACT *to create* 895.225 of the statutes; **relating to:** designating Fire
2 Prevention Week and Wisconsin Firefighters Memorial Day.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill designates the week in October during which October 8 falls as Fire Prevention Week and the Thursday of that week as Wisconsin Firefighters Memorial Day. Under the bill, appropriate observances and activities may be held under state or local auspices to commemorate the Peshtigo fire and the Chicago fire, study fire safety tips to help avoid home fires, recognize the importance of well-trained fire fighters and well-equipped fire departments, honor the accomplishments of the state's firefighters, and memorialize the firefighters of this state who have died while fighting fires.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 SECTION 1. 895.225 of the statutes is created to read:
4 **895.225 Fire Prevention Week. (1)** The week in October during which
5 October 8 falls is designated Fire Prevention Week and the Thursday of that week

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1 is designated Wisconsin Firefighters Memorial Day. In conjunction with the week,
2 appropriate observances, ceremonies, exercises, and activities may be held under
3 state auspices to do all of the following:

4 (a) Commemorate 2 of the most devastating fires in U.S. history, both of which
5 started on October 8, 1871, the Peshtigo fire and the Chicago fire.

6 (b) Study fire safety tips to help avoid home fires.

7 (c) Recognize that well-trained, dedicated, and well-equipped fire
8 departments are important to all of the residents of this state.

9 (d) Recognize that thousands of state firefighters, both full-time and volunteer,
10 dedicate themselves to protecting lives and property.

11 (e) Express the gratitude of the residents of this state for the valuable
12 contributions that firefighters have made to the other residents of this state.

13 (f) Honor those contributions and memorialize the firefighters of this state who
14 have died while performing their duties.

15 **(2)** The chief officials of local governments and the people of the state are
16 invited either to join and participate in the observances, ceremonies, exercises, and
17 activities under sub. (1) which may be held under state auspices or to conduct similar
18 observances in their respective localities.

19 (END)