



22 EAST MIFFLIN STREET, SUITE 900
MADISON, WI 53703
TOLL FREE: 1.866.404.2700
PHONE: 608.663.7188
FAX: 608.663.7189

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Corrections and the Courts

FROM: Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, Senior Legislative Associate *SDK*

DATE: August 13, 2003

SUBJECT: Support for Assembly Bill 390

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) supports Assembly Bill 390 which allows county jails to detain persons who are detained by a county that borders this state if the counties involved enter into an interstate cooperation agreement that takes into account all the requirements of Wisconsin law regarding the detention of persons in county jails.

The majority of counties in Wisconsin has either completed a jail expansion/renovation project or is in the process of constructing a new jail or new jail beds for the detention of prisoners. Jail populations in the state of Wisconsin have been increasing over the years. To prevent a situation where a new county jail is full upon opening, or needs to be expanded five years or less after project completion, counties are building jails that will meet their space needs in 10-15 years and beyond. In the interim, counties have the capacity to hold additional inmates. Passage of this bill will allow border counties to hold inmates for their counterparts in other states, which not only promotes intergovernmental cooperation, but also allows the county to receive revenue to offset the costs associated with jail construction, operation and maintenance (which provides property tax relief for the citizens of the county).

WCA is aware of at least two counties that have preliminary agreements with border counties in the state of Minnesota (Polk and Douglas Counties) and respectfully request swift passage of this legislation to allow those counties, as well as other interested counties from across the state, to pursue agreements with their neighbors outside of Wisconsin.

Thank you for considering our comments.

AB 390

Co-Operative agreement between
WI counties & counties from bordering
states

↳ Amended to 252