

Moved by Senator Stepp, seconded by Senator S. Fitzgerald that **Senate Bill 18** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (4) Senators Ellis, S. Fitzgerald, Reynolds and Stepp.

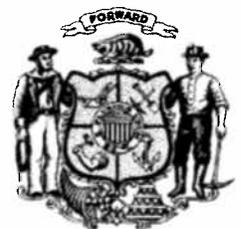
Noes: (3) Senators Jauch, Robson and Hansen.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 4, Noes 3

Michael Boerger
Committee Clerk



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Senator Carol Roessler's Testimony
Senate Bill 18
Lieutenant Governor Bill

Chairman Ellis and fellow Senators thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in favor of Senate Bill 18.

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend your hearing today because of an event scheduled in my district prior to this hearing notice.

Senate Bill 18, would change the way the lieutenant governor is chosen in Wisconsin. Under current law, at the September primary, electors may vote for a candidate for the office of lieutenant governor separately from candidates for other offices within their preferred party. The winning candidate for the office of lieutenant governor within each party at the primary is then placed on the ballot at the general election, along with the party's winning candidate for the office of governor.

This legislation is aimed at facilitating a team approach for the office of Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Allowing the Governor to choose his team will result in compatible philosophies, common goals, and strong working relationships with greater efficiencies.

Under Senate Bill 18, a major party candidate for the office of lieutenant governor would not file nomination papers and would not appear on the primary ballot. Rather each major party candidate for the office of governor must certify the name of a candidate for the office of lieutenant governor within two days after official certification of the gubernatorial candidate's nomination at the September primary. The certified candidate for the office of lieutenant governor then has three days after receipt of the certification to file a declaration of candidacy, a statement of economic interests and, if the candidate has not already done so, a financial registration.

Allowing the Governor the ability to choose a running mate will result in a strong working partnership between the office of Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

In closing, this is not an issue that divides Republicans or Democrats. Last session, I introduced similar legislation with a Republican Administration in office. This proposal fully utilizes the office of Lieutenant Governor.