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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2005-06

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Veterans, Homeland Security,
Military Affairs, Small Business and Government
Reform (SC-VHSMASBGR)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform

Senate Bill 204

Relating to: authorizing cities, villages, towns, and counties to solicit bids for certain contracts by using the Internet.

By Senators Roessler, Darling and Reynolds; cosponsored by Representatives Musser, Albers, Hines, Kreibich, LeMahieu, Lothian, McCormick, Ott, Owens and Vos.

May 11, 2005 Referred to Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform.

August 24, 2005 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (4) Senators Brown, Zien, Breske and Wirch.
Absent: (1) Senator Kanavas.

Appearances For

- Carol Roessler — State Senator, 18th Senate District
- Jim Boullion, Madison — Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin
- Curt Witynski, Madison — League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Appearances Against

- Peter Fox, Madison — Wisconsin Newspaper Association
- Pete Christianson, Madison — eFunds, Incorporated

Appearances for Information Only

- John Mielke, Madison — Associated Builders and Contractors

Registrations For

- Terry Musser — State Representative, 92nd State Assembly District
- Jayme Sellen, Madison — Wisconsin Counties Association
- David Krahn, Waukesha
- Mark Wadium, Appleton
- Ed Huck, Madison — Wisconsin Alliance of Cities

Registrations Against

- None.

November 16, 2005 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (4) Senators Brown, Zien, Breske and Wirch.

Absent: (1) Senator Kanavas.

Moved by Senator Brown, seconded by Senator Zien that **Senate Bill 204** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (2) Senators Brown and Kanavas.

Noes: (3) Senators Zien, Breske and Wirch.

PASSAGE NOT RECOMMENDED, Ayes 2, Noes 3

May 4, 2006

Failed to pass pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1.

Daniel Lindstedt
Committee Clerk

SENATE BILL 204 (LRB -1833)

An Act to amend 59.52 (29) (a), 60.47 (2) (a), 60.47 (2) (b), 61.55, 62.15 (1) and 62.15 (3); and to create 66.0901 (10) of the statutes; relating to: authorizing cities, villages, towns, and counties to solicit bids for certain contracts by using the Internet.

2005

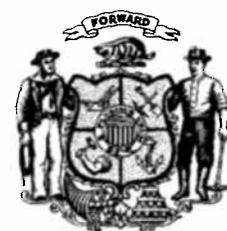
- 05-11. S. Introduced by Senators **Roessler, Darling** and **Reynolds**; cosponsored by Representatives **Musser, Albers, Hines, Kreibich, LeMahieu, Lothian, McCormick, Ott, Owens** and **Vos**.
- 05-11. S. Read first time and referred to committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform 212
- 06-08. S. Fiscal estimate received.
- 08-24. S. Public hearing held.

2006

- 05-11. S. Failed to pass pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1 853



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





The Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin

4814 East Broadway, Madison, WI 53716 • (608) 221-3821 • Fax: (608) 221-4446

Hearing Testimony

Senate Bill 204 – Soliciting Construction Bids on the Internet

Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs,

Small Business and Government Reform

Wednesday, August 24th, 2005

Presented by Jim Boullion, Director of Government Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Jim Boullion; I am the Director of Government Affairs for the Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin. We represent many of the commercial construction contractors who bid on and build the public buildings in Wisconsin.

We support the use of the Internet and new technologies to improve efficiency and reduce the cost of providing services to the taxpayer. SB 204 is a step in the right direction, but it has one potential problem that I would like recommend a solution for.

We do not object to the posting of jobs on individual municipal websites, but this will create a bit of a problem if they only post it on their own website. There are over 1,700 municipalities and if they all create their own individual website posting system it will be a problem for contractors to find the jobs if they have to check each website every time they are looking to bid on a job.

* We would recommend that the bill be amended to require that if a municipality decides to go this route that they also be required to post the job on one central website that has been designated as the “official” municipal job posting website. This will have many advantages.

For the municipalities,

- A centrally administered website would allow even the smallest town to have an Internet presence without the web hosting administrative work. They would simply post the jobs.
- The cost of this type of service would be very low.
- It would draw more contractors and increase competition to get lower bids on the jobs and reduce the cost of construction to the taxpayers.

For the Contractors:

- A centralized website would make more jobs available to bid on and easier to find.
- They could do interactive job searches and get notices to find all of the public projects in their area.
- The cost to contractors would again be very low.

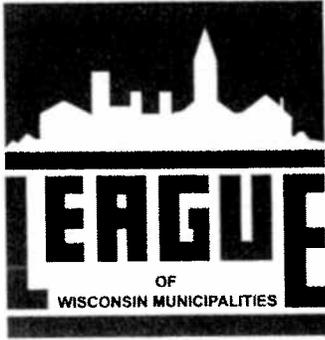
AGC of Wisconsin has many contacts in the industry and we would be glad to work with the municipalities to develop the details on creating such a centralized website.

Thank you for your time. I would be glad to take any questions. If you have any follow up questions please contact me on the Internet at jboullion@agcwi.org or by telephone at (608) 221-3821



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





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www.lwm-info.org

To: Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform

From: Curt Witynski, Assistant Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Date: August 24, 2005

Re: Support for SB 204, Allowing Municipalities to Solicit Bids for Public Construction Contracts on the Municipality's Website

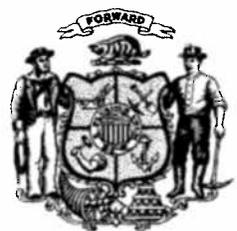
The League of Wisconsin Municipalities strongly supports SB 204, introduced by Senator Carol Roessler and Rep. Terry Musser, allowing local governments to solicit bids on public construction projects on their Web sites rather than in the newspaper.

Last summer, the League surveyed its 578 members on the cost of publishing legal notices. We received responses from 368 municipalities for a response rate of 63%. Responding municipalities reported spending a total of \$2.033 million on publishing legal notices in 2003, including requests for bids.

This bill will provide local governments with a potentially less expensive method of soliciting bids on public construction projects. It allows municipalities to invite bids on public construction projects by posting the bid request on the community's Web site rather than in the newspaper. If a community chooses to solicit bids for public contracts exclusively on its Web site, it must notify the public of this fact by publishing a notice in a newspaper twice a year.

This is a simple bill that provides municipalities with more flexibility in conducting municipal business. In light of the levy limits included in the state budget, municipalities need such flexibility now more than ever.

We urge you to recommend passage of this sensible legislation. Thanks for considering our comments on this League initiated bill.





WISCONSIN NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

...world's oldest press association, established 1853.

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CARL HEARING
Monroe Times

First Vice President

TIM LYKE
The Ripon Commonwealth Press

Second Vice President

RICHARD ROESGEN
The Sheboygan Press

Third Vice President

ROGER SHELLMAN
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The Park Falls Herald

PIETER GRAASKAMP
Leader - Telegram

ANDREW JOHNSON
The Mayville News
Horicon Reporter

RICHARD JOHNSTON
The Journal Times

HELEN JUNGWIRTH
The Daily Tribune
Stevens Point Journal

PAT REILLY
The Dodgeville Chronicle

KATHY TOBIN
Tomahawk Leader

WNA Executive Director
PETER D. FOX

August 24, 2005

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security,
Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform

From: Peter D. Fox, Executive Director, Wisconsin Newspaper Association

Subject: Senate Bill 204

Thank you for the opportunity for the Wisconsin Newspaper Association to provide its perspective on Senate Bill 204 as you consider this proposal. At the outset, let me acknowledge that our member newspapers do earn a small – actually, a tiny – portion of their revenue through the publication of bid notices. We understand through information collected by the League of Wisconsin Municipalities that municipal governments spend just over \$2 million annually to publish the variety of public notices, such as advertisements for bids that are now required to be published in community newspapers. The per capita cost for this information reaching the public via verified-circulation newspapers is less than 40 cents.

WNA opposes this bill not because of financial implications to the industry but because we believe that over the long run this change is not in the best interests of Wisconsin citizens and good government. This bill is another step in the direction of forcing citizens to follow government actions on government terms – that is, further burdening citizens with the requirement that they must take the initiative to stay current on government decision-making and spending.

Previous Wisconsin Legislatures thoughtfully placed public notices where citizens can most easily find them – in a community newspaper, which was defined as a publication "... appearing at regular intervals ... containing reports of happenings of recent occurrence of a varied character, such as political, social, moral and religious subjects, designed to inform the general reader." WNA maintains that an unintended result of this bill would be to "compartmentalize" public information by effectively limiting it to only those who have a motivation to seek it out.

Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and
Government Reform

August 24, 2005

Page 2

WNA recognizes the Internet as an important communications tool in modern life. Using it for aspects of government business that historically have been widely and openly shared with taxpayers and other citizens is not analogous to applications the private sector uses for "e-business." Government business still is, and will always be, the public's business.

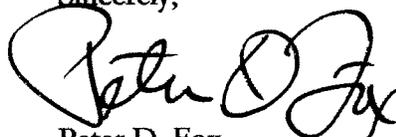
Finally, there has been much discussion and speculation on how important the Internet is today as a conduit for news and information. According to a recent report by the Roper survey firm while computer use is up, 71 percent of information seekers 18 years and older still turn to the traditional source – newspapers – while 39 percent use their computers.

WNA is concerned that municipal governments, given the option of posting information on their Web sites that citizens must overtly go to or publishing the information in the community newspaper, would opt for the short-term hope of saving relatively small amounts of money to the detriment of greater citizen knowledge and involvement in their local governments.

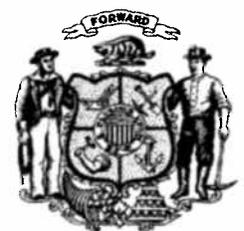
In addition to concerns with the dramatic shift in public policy this bill engender, WNA also is concerned with several procedural challenges the bill would create. However, our main opposition to this bill and others similar is the burden they would place on the general public to remain abreast of the decision-making and thinking of their local governments.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to present our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter D. Fox". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Peter" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Fox".

Peter D. Fox
Executive Director



Amend to
post on
and a central
web site.

• **Senate Bill 204**

Relating to: *authorizing cities, villages, towns, and counties to solicit bids for certain contracts by using the Internet.*

By **Senators Roessler, Darling and Reynolds**; **cosponsored by Representatives Musser, Albers, Hines, Kreibich, LeMahieu, Lothian, McCormick, Ott, Owens and Vos.**

• **Senate Bill 259**

Relating to: eliminating various school district and Department of Public Instruction requirements, authorizing a city or village to abolish its police department and contract for law enforcement services with a county, authorizing a county to participate in a municipal revenue sharing agreement, standards for information technology integration, and city health departments.

By **Senators Brown, Jauch, Kanavas, Roessler and Kapanke**; **cosponsored by Representatives Musser, Albers, Hines and Townsend.**

✓ **Senate Bill 276**

Relating to: expanding reimbursements to cities and villages for fire calls on certain highways.

By **Senators Darling, A. Lasee and Roessler**; **cosponsored by Representatives Wasserman, Albers, Berceau, Gronemus, Gunderson, Krawczyk, Molepske, Musser, Ott, Petrowski and Strachota.**

III. Motion to Adjourn

- a. Entertain motion to adjourn.

✓ **Senate Bill 146**

Relating to: authorizing a county to participate in a municipal revenue sharing agreement.

By **Senators Kapanke**, Brown, Cowles, A. Lasee, Olsen, Roessler and Wirch; **cosponsored by Representatives Wieckert**, Huebsch, Nerison, Shilling, Ainsworth, Ballweg, Gielow, Gunderson, Hahn, Hines, Jeskewitz, LeMahieu, Loeffelholz, Lothian, Molepske, Mursau, Musser, Nass, Ott, Owens, Petrowski, Pridemore, Rhoades, Townsend, Van Roy and Vrakas.

✓ **e. Entertain Motion to Adjourn Executive Session**

II. ✓ **Call to Order Public Hearing**

✓ a. **Call of the Roll**

✓ b. **Hearing of Public Testimony**

✓ **The Appointment of David Swanson**

Of Milwaukee, to serve as a member of the Tax Appeals Commission, for the term ending March 1, 2011.

✓ **The Appointment of Rodney Moen**

Of Whitehall, to serve as a member of the Board of Veterans Affairs, for the term ending May 1, 2011.

✓ **Senate Joint Resolution 21**

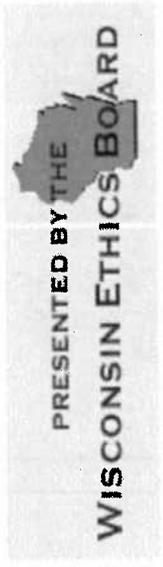
Relating to: the creation of state funds and accounts and prohibiting the state from changing the purpose of any state fund or program revenue appropriation account (first consideration).

By **Senators Breske**, Harsdorf and Grothman; **cosponsored by Representatives Hines**, Hahn, Musser, Kreibich, Ainsworth, Bies, Gunderson, Jeskewitz, Ballweg, Wood, F. Lasee, Pridemore and Strachota.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





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as of Tuesday, August 23, 2005

2005-2006 legislative session

Legislative bills and resolutions

(search for another legislative bill or resolution at the bottom of this page)

- Text, Sponsors and Analysis
- Status and Fiscal Estimate
- Lobbying Effort on this item

Senate Bill 204

authorizing cities, villages, towns, and counties to solicit bids for certain contracts by using the Internet. (FE)

Organization	Interests	Date Notified	Position	Comments
●	●	5/20/2005	↑	
●	●	6/20/2005	↓	

Place pointer on icon to display comments, click icon to display prior comments

Select a legislative proposal and click "go"

House Assembly Senate
Proposal Type Bill Joint Resolution Resolution
Proposal Number (enter proposal number)
Legislative Session