2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 532

October 11, 2007 – Introduced by Representatives Gunderson, Musser, Berceau, Hahn, Lemahieu, Mursau, A. Ott and Turner, cosponsored by Senators Miller, Cowles, Lassa, Lazich, Lehman, Olsen and Schultz. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

- AN ACT *to amend* 145.12 (5) (a); and *to create* 145.20 (6) of the statutes; relating to: restrictions relating to soil testing and the installation, design,
- maintenance, repair, and sale of private sewage systems and providing a
- 4 penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law makes certain local governmental units, generally counties, responsible for the regulation of septic systems and other private sewage systems. For example, the law requires the local governmental units to review soil test reports and to inspect private sewage systems after construction but before backfilling.

This bill prohibits a local governmental unit employee who has responsibilities related to the regulation of private sewage systems from doing any of the following:

- 1. Performing soil testing.
- 2. Installing, maintaining, or repairing private sewage systems.
- 3. Selling private sewage systems.
- 4. Designing private sewage systems.

The bill authorizes the Department of Commerce to directly assess a forfeiture of no more than \$2,000 against a person who violates the prohibitions created in the bill.

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

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publication.

SECTION 1. 145.12 (5) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:
145.12 (5) (a) In lieu of any other penalty under this section, the department
may directly assess a forfeiture by issuing an order against any person who violates
s. $145.06 \underline{\text{or } 145.20 (6)}$. The department may not assess a forfeiture exceeding \$2,000
for each violation.
SECTION 2. 145.20 (6) of the statutes is created to read:
145.20 (6) Restrictions on reviewers and inspectors. A governmental unit
employee who has responsibilities related to any of the activities under sub. (2) (a)
to (i) may not do any of the following:
(a) Conduct any activities for which certification is required under s. 145.045
(1), except that the employee may review and verify soil tester reports as provided
in sub. (2) (a).
(b) Install, design, maintain, repair, or sell a private sewage systems
component of a private sewage system, drain field designed to serve a private sewage
system, or pipe from a private sewage system to the immediate inside of the existing
or proposed foundation wall of the building served by the private sewage system.
Section 3. Effective date.
(1) This act takes effect on the first day of the 7th month beginning after

(END)