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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2009-10

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Criminal Justice (AC-CJ)

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**

Assembly

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Criminal Justice

Assembly Bill 613

Relating to: aiding a felon and providing penalties.

By Representatives Krusick, Gundrum, Bies, Brooks, Knodl, LeMahieu and Vos;
cosponsored by Senator Darling.

December 11, 2009 Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice.

April 14, 2010 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (10) Representatives Turner, Kessler, Staskunas,
Hraychuck, Soletski, Pasch, Friske, Kramer,
Brooks, Ripp.

Absent: (1) Representative Kleefisch.

Appearances For

- Peggy Krusick, Milwaukee — State Representative, 7th Assembly District
- Shirley George, Waupaca — Self
- Robert Jambois, Middleton — Self

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- Chris Ahmuty, Milwaukee — ACLU of Wisconsin

Registrations For

- Jim Palmer, Madison — WI Professional Police Association

Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

April 20, 2010 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (10) Representatives Turner, Kessler, Staskunas,
Hraychuck, Pasch, Kleefisch, Friske, Kramer,
Brooks, Ripp.

Absent: (1) Representative Soletski.

Moved by Representative Kessler, seconded by Representative Hraychuck that **Assembly Amendment 1** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (2) Representatives Kessler and Pasch.

Noes: (8) Representatives Turner, Staskunas, Hraychuck, Kleefisch, Friske, Kramer, Brooks and Ripp.

Absent: (1) Representative Soletski.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1 ADOPTION NOT RECOMMENDED, Ayes 2, Noes 8

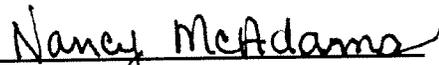
Moved by Representative Staskunas, seconded by Representative Kleefisch that **Assembly Bill 613** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (9) Representatives Turner, Staskunas, Hraychuck, Pasch, Kleefisch, Friske, Kramer, Brooks and Ripp.

Noes: (1) Representative Kessler.

Absent: (1) Representative Soletski.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 9, Noes 1



Nancy McAdams
Committee Clerk



Vote Record Committee on Criminal Justice

Date: 4-20-10

Moved by: Rep. Staskunas

Rep. Kleefisch
Seconded by: _____

AB 613 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

- Be recommended for:
- Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 - Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrency

Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Representative Robert Turner, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Frederick Kessler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Anthony Staskunas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Ann Hraychuck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative James Soletski	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Sandy Pasch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joel Kleefisch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Donald Friske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Bill Kramer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Edward Brooks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Keith Ripp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	9	1	1	

Vote Record Committee on Criminal Justice

Date: 4-20-10

Moved by: Rep. Kessler

Seconded by: Rep. Hraychuck OK

AB 613 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt 1 _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Robert Turner, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Frederick Kessler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Anthony Staskunas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Ann Hraychuck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative James Soletski	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Sandy Pasch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joel Kleefisch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Donald Friske	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Bill Kramer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Edward Brooks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Keith Ripp	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	_____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed





Robert Turner

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE 61ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

January 29, 2010

Ms. Shirley George
N6494 1st Street
Waupaca, WI 54981

Packet

Dear Ms. George:

Thank you for contacting me regarding Assembly Bill 613, relating to aiding a felon and providing penalties.

As you know, this bill has been referred to the Assembly Criminal Justice Committee, as it was in the 2007 legislative session as 2007 Assembly Bill 397. I was a member of the Criminal Justice Committee last session and I did vote for passage of the bill out of the Committee. However, the Assembly Rules Committee, which is composed of legislative leaders from both parties, never scheduled the bill for a vote before the full Assembly. I have enclosed a copy of the actions taken on 2007 Assembly Bill 397 for your information.

I have not scheduled this bill for a public hearing to date because the bill has not moved forward for the past two sessions, and this session's bill, AB 613, does not have bi-partisan co-sponsorship. There are also fiscal estimates to AB 613 that indicate increased costs to the Department of Corrections budget and the State Public Defender budget that indicate they cannot be absorbed by each agency's current budget. As you know, all state agencies received a 5% across the board cut in the 2009 budget bill and are struggling to fund existing programs. All state employees have taken mandatory staff furloughs of 16 unpaid days over the biennium to help with the budget crisis.

I am sorry I cannot be more encouraging, but the costs of implementing this legislation, along with a lack of bi-partisan support, indicate to me that it has no chance of passage during the current legislative session.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Turner, Chair
Assembly Criminal Justice Committee

RLT/nam



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

FOR _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ A.M.
P.M.

M. Shirley George

OF _____

PHONE 715-256-2392

FAX AREA CODE NUMBER EXTENSION
 MOBILE AREA CODE NUMBER TIME TO CALL

TELEPHONED		PLEASE CALL	
CAME TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN	
WANTS TO SEE YOU		RUSH	
RETURNED YOUR CALL		SPECIAL ATTENTION	

MESSAGE AB 613

message *

SIGNED _____

**Office
DEPOT**

McAdams, Nancy

From: Moran, Christian
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2010 9:35 AM
To: McAdams, Nancy
Subject: Shirley George's contact info

Nancy,

Here's Shirley's address:

N6494 1st St
Waupaca, WI 54981

Our aiding a felon bill was first introduced as 2005 SB 248. It passed Senate Judiciary 3-2, the Senate on a voice vote and Assembly Criminal Justice 10-1, but it never got out of Rules.

Last session the bill was introduced as 2007 AB 397. It passed Assembly Criminal Justice 11-0, but never got out of Rules.

Hope this helps. Just let me know if you need anything else.

Christian

Christian Moran
Office of Representative Peggy Krusick
State Capitol, 128 North
Madison, WI 53708
(608) 266-1733



Joey's Law

Date ?

Good morning

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Committee Members

I thank you for allowing me to speak here today.

My name is Shirley George, and I'm here for two reasons.

First what eventually brought me before you today is the senseless murder of my grandson Joey George in the prime of his life, and the lenient penalties the 5 participants of his death received.

Second, I'm here today to encourage the amending of the Penalty Phase, of ...Bill number AB613. This bill relates to providing appropriate penalties to ALL participants while aiding and abetting in a felony. We have to instigate some real thoughts on "re-Thinking" a way to maximize a safer world for our children to live in. They too, have Inalienable rights to happiness.

Along with a death occurring, many times there is "Abuse," which includes many types of manipulation, that some children are subjected to, and often many people such as family, neighbors, close friends, etc, are even aware of it, and they seem to keep their mouths shut, until something drastic happens. We simply cannot coddle & protect the perpetrator and others, who aide and abet.

A little background on Joey.....

Joey was born with Cerebral Palsy. He didn't walk until he was 3 years old. As he matured, Joey learned to run. As awkward as his running looked, it was effective. He even earned a place on the freshman basketball team in high school due to his strong perseverance and his family's help. Joey conquered many

obstacles and achieved much in his short life of 21 yrs.

I was devastated when Joey was murdered, and with the thoughts of all the inequities that occurred before, during and after the trial it ate away at me.

I knew that the newspaper and television hype would die down eventually, but for me,... I couldn't let it die down. I couldn't let it go away. It ate so hard that I started to research just how to amend a law. I talked to District Attorney's, Police Chiefs, and several legislators, and it was mutually agreed that enhancement of "Aiding a felon in a homicide case" It is a change that has been long overdue.

Obviously, we know there was only one shooter. However, all of the perpetrators, who were in the vehicle, were very aware that there was going to be trouble.

Because....

In the vehicle, with them, were two guns,
Two baseball bats,
Brass knuckles, &
Sawed-off pool cues,

And knowing all this, any one of them could have walked away at any time. But No..... They all chose not to.

One of them owned the get-away car.

They all aided the shooter by emptying the gun, wiping off the spent cartridges and throwing them out of the car window.

They continued to aid the shooter by hiding the gun in a shed at the home of one of them. Another aided in covering up the shooter with his jacket to disguise his identity, just before the shooting.

“The Penalty Phase” of this amendment to “Aiding a Felon Law” should and must be made well known to the public at large AND WHY? Because it would make a lot of people think twice about participating in an unlawful act.

If the penalty phase of this law had been in effect, the participating perpetrators who aided & harbored the killer of Joey, would have gotten longer sentences.

Since the onset of our case, there have been many more aiding and abetting instances in several counties throughout the state. One not long ago in Winnebago County, where a young man helped another person hide the body of a woman he killed, in the trunk of a car.

As we all know, the Jessica Langford trial in Florida ended, and along with the verdict, came all the hulla-balu about the 3 people who aided & abetted & got off scott-free because Florida doesn't have a decent aiding & abetting law. Perhaps, just perhaps if those friends had knowledge,.. And a greater fear...of aiding & abetting, maybe they would have admitted to the police as to the whereabouts of the perpetrator,...the young girl might have been found alive.

We realize it is a different type of crime than “our Joey’s,” but... Aiding & abetting is Aiding & Abetting.

I have had a lot of support & a lot of stumbling blocks, but I now feel “Joey’s law” is finally coming to fruition.

It doesn't effect our case, but at least henceforth this inequity will never happen again to another family.

We know that this law AB613 is an enhancement of the PENALTY PHASE ONLY, And therefore it tends to go un-noticed by the

general public, so.....I would like the advantage of having this bill involve the media to alert people that this “ NEW LAW” now has a greater penalty for “Aiding & Abetting” a Felon especially when a death occurs.

It has been proven that when the public hears Adams Law, or Jessica’s Law, it automatically alerts everyone as to the exact nature of the offense. If treated the same way, this “New Law” will alert everyone that there is now a greater penalty.....For Aiding And Abetting A Felon.

In Closing, I would like to say:

To have this bill sub-titled “Joey’s Law” would truly be the ultimate reward of my efforts and help secure protection of the innocent.

Thank You

I have one short footnote:... What a great opportunity we here in Wisconsin, have to show the rest of the country that there’s some teeth in our “aiding & abetting law” in a homicide case.





PEGGY KRUSICK
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Packet

Date?

Aiding a Felon (AB 613)

This bill would strengthen Wisconsin's laws prohibiting the aiding of a felon, known in some states as "accessory after the fact" laws.

Attached is a recent article from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that describes how some family members have used exceptions in Wisconsin's current aiding a felon law to help homicide suspects run or get rid of evidence.

Current Law

Generally prohibits anyone, other than a family member, from aiding a felon or destroying, altering, or hiding evidence in order to prevent a felon from getting caught or convicted. Someone related or married to the felon is exempted from this law.

The Bill

Increases the maximum penalties for aiding a felon who has committed a class A, B, C or D felon as follows:

Confinement:	1½ years to 5 years
Supervision:	2 years to 5 years
Fine:	\$10,000 to \$25,000

Removes the exception for relatives or spouses who intentionally destroy, alter, damage, or hide evidence, or place false evidence in order to assist someone with getting away with a crime

Creates a new exception for someone who aids a felon who has been charged with domestic abuse against that person and the person may be called to testify against the felon.

The Rationale

Crime should not be a "family affair" and aiding a more serious felony should carry more significant consequences than assisting a less serious felony.

The vast majority of crimes against children are committed by family members. Tragically, it is often the case that other adults within the family actively support the offender rather than the child victim. Passage of this legislation is necessary to provide a greater measure of protection to children who are at risk in Wisconsin.



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Milwaukee County
A Journal Sentinel Watchdog Update

Families' aid to fugitives damaging

Make it a state crime, say prosecutors, victim advocates

By [John Diedrich](#) of the Journal Sentinel

Posted: April 3, 2010 | [\(36\) Comments](#)

Criminals on the run in Wisconsin turn to family members to hide murder guns, bloody clothes, stolen loot and other evidence. But the family helpers can't be charged under a long-standing state law.

Prosecutors across Wisconsin say the situation is common and hurts investigators' ability to solve serious crimes.

About a dozen states have similar laws. But Wisconsin's version is among the most liberal, exempting more family members and allowing them to even plant false evidence without fear of prosecution.

"That's incredible," said Scott Burns, executive director of the National District Attorneys Association, of Wisconsin's law. "The people who typically engage in harboring are the very people exempted - parents, spouses, children. &ensp.&ensp.&ensp. It begs the question: Why even have the statute?"

A bill that would remove the protection for family members and add more prison time for anyone breaking the law has stalled repeatedly in Madison over the past five years.

A more limited version of the bill was introduced this session, but it hasn't gotten a committee hearing. And it is unlikely to pass before the session ends this month.

The current law helps fugitives escape the law, hampers prosecutions and creates unnecessary danger for police officers hunting for suspects, according to prosecutors, legislators and crime victims.

But defense attorneys and some legislators say without the current law, family members who think they are simply helping a loved one but don't have all the facts could wind up being prosecuted.

Wisconsin's family exemption law surfaced recently in the [case of LZ Jolly](#), a Milwaukee man wanted for almost three years on a charge of killing James Reese as he lay in a bathtub begging for his life.

When police finally found Jolly, he was living with Angelina Wyatt, who knew he was wanted, according to court documents. She was charged but brought to court a Nevada marriage certificate showing they were married.

In most states, that marriage certificate would not have mattered.

But in Wisconsin, it amounted to a get-out-of-jail-free card.

Prosecutors dropped charges against Wyatt.

Shirley George's grandson, Joey, was murdered in Oak Creek a decade ago. The three suspects were helped by friends and family, according to authorities. One of the killers' friends was convicted of felony harboring in the case but received just four months in jail.

George has been pushing to change the law ever since.

"The message is just run home to your family and they will support you," George said. "We can't coddle those who aid and protect fugitives."

Law goes beyond spouse

State and federal courts have long put communication between spouses, such as confessing to a murder, off limits to prosecutors in criminal cases.

But the laws, such as Wisconsin's, exempting family members from being prosecuted for harboring a felon are different. They apply to more than just the spouse. And they stop prosecutors from charging people who have taken action to hide a fugitive.

Wisconsin's law against helping wanted felons dates to the mid-1950s. It says people who try to prevent apprehension of the felon by harboring the person or destroying evidence or placing false evidence themselves can be prosecuted for a felony. It currently carries penalties of up to 18 months in prison and two years' probation.

From the start, Wisconsin's law exempted the felon's spouse, parent, grandparent, child, brother or sister, later adding the phrase, "by blood, marriage or adoption."

The federal harboring law does not have such an exemption and neither do the laws in 36 states, according to a legal journal article from 2007.

Wisconsin's law has remained largely unchanged over five decades. The most recent change was in 2001, when the punishment was reduced from the maximum two years in prison to 18 months - tucked inside a 299-page budget adjustment bill. No author is listed in online legislative records.

Jolly himself was convicted of harboring a homicide suspect in 1996. He was charged because he wasn't related to the fugitive.

Jolly got the two-year maximum, but he ended up serving just seven months under old state law that allowed prisoners to be let off for good behavior after serving just a portion of their sentence.

Over 16 years, Jolly was arrested at least 18 times - on suspicion of murder, shootings, carrying guns, dealing drugs and more. He faced life in prison on the charge of killing Reese.

But he was offered a plea bargain with a much lower charge after scared witnesses changed their stories. Prosecutors said their case was hurt because of the time Jolly eluded justice, with the help of his wife

and likely others.

Earlier this year, a judge gave Jolly 16 months behind bars - time he already served in jail awaiting a trial - plus five years' probation

Wyatt was charged with harboring Jolly but later produced the marriage certificate. Wyatt did not tell detectives she was married to Jolly when she was interrogated, according to a prosecutor. She admitted to detectives she knew Jolly was wanted for homicide in 2006 when she started letting him stay with her.

Wyatt's attorney, Syovata Edari, said the system worked the way it should - family should not be charged for helping a loved one.

"I think it makes sense," she said. "It is not fair to ask a family member to compromise loyalty and give up family to be prosecuted."

Milwaukee Assistant District Attorney Mark Williams said Wisconsin's law causes problems, especially in homicides.

"It is a terrible law," said Williams, head of Milwaukee's homicide unit for nearly 20 years. "Here, people can hide guns, hide bloody clothes and burn clothes, and I can't charge anybody for doing that. That is absurd."

Recent uses of the law

Williams and other prosecutors point to several recent homicide cases where family members helped suspects run or get rid of evidence. They include:

- Kevin Bohannon was robbed and killed as he walked through Mitchell Park on the south side in July 2006. The suspect's brother hid the gun, Williams said, but because of the law the brother could not be charged.
- Two months later, Special Olympian Brandon Sprewer was robbed and murdered as he was waiting for a bus on Milwaukee's northwest side. Again, the gunman gave the murder weapon to his brother, who hid it, Williams said. Again, no charges.
- In Kenosha, two teenagers are charged in adult court with killing a woman who lived next door in 2008. After beating her to death with a bat, they took an X-box, purse and money, according to a criminal complaint. The mother of one suspect stashed the stolen goods, a mask, gloves and other evidence at her sister's house, according to police reports. She hasn't been charged.

If prosecutors can show family members knew about a crime beforehand, they can be charged as a party to the crime. But if they help afterward, there is little prosecutors can do except perhaps charge obstruction of justice - a misdemeanor.

Langlade County District Attorney Ralph Uttke said he regularly sees family members hiding wanted people. Recently, a half-dozen officers went on a warrant to pick up a habitual burglar who was being hidden by a parent, Uttke said.

"We have law enforcement going out to look for these guys. They go in armed and ready. It creates a

dangerous situation," he said.

If the law changes, prosecutors said, that doesn't mean they will automatically charge family members in every case. But as is, the law takes away prosecutors' discretion.

"You have to trust prosecutors," Williams said.

Legislation stalls

After her grandson was killed in 2000, Shirley George started pushing what she called "Joey's Law." Mistaken for another man, Joseph "Joey" George was killed outside an Oak Creek bar. Those charged included the son of then-Milwaukee police union President Bradley DeBraska.

Robert Jambois, a special prosecutor on the George case, said it shows the need to toughen the penalty, especially for those helping to hide the most serious criminals.

"It is one thing to assist someone who commits a retail theft. It is another thing to assist someone who abducts a child or kills someone. Yet Wisconsin statute didn't distinguish between them," Jambois said.

A 2005 bill would have eliminated the family exception and increased the penalty to six years. It passed the Republican-controlled Senate but stalled in the Assembly, also then controlled by the GOP.

A new version of the bill came in 2007, increasing the penalty to 10 years but left the family exception intact. It passed an Assembly committee, but didn't come up for vote before the full GOP-controlled Assembly.

New bill

Another version of the bill was introduced last year by Rep. Peggy Krusick (D-Milwaukee). It says family members can't be charged with hiding a felon, but they can be for destroying evidence. Again, it calls for a 10-year punishment.

The bill has stalled in the Assembly, where state Rep. Robert Turner (D-Racine) has not scheduled a hearing before his Criminal Justice Committee.

In a letter to Shirley George, Turner wrote that he had not held a hearing because the bill failed in past sessions, would cost money and didn't have bipartisan support.

However, one Democrat and seven Republicans have signed on to the bill. There will be a cost, but state agencies said they couldn't give an estimate.

Contacted by a reporter last week, Turner took a different stance. He vowed to schedule a hearing.

He said he was mistaken when he said the bill wasn't bipartisan. He said he is still concerned about the fiscal impact, but he also is troubled by the current law.

"If you are harboring a criminal, you are just as guilty as the criminal," said Turner, who voted for the earlier version. "That is a bill that needs to move."

Even if the bill moves through the Assembly, it won't get a hearing before the Senate committee that handles crime issues, chaired by state Sen. Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee).

Taylor's chief of staff, Eric Peterson, said Taylor will not hold a hearing because of the penalties and ambiguity in the bill. Taylor, who once worked as a public defender, declined to be interviewed.

Peterson said, "A parent could be acting without any evidence of a crime and could in some way destroy evidence without even knowing it and commit a crime without even knowing, and that is a concern."

Krusick said even if the bill doesn't move this session, she plans to bring it back.

"A crime should not be a family affair, and aiding a serious felon should be a serious offense," she said.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO 'HARBORING' LAW

If you want to contact key lawmakers about a bill that would change Wisconsin's law on harboring a felon (Assembly Bill 613), here is the contact information:

Key Assembly members

Rep. Robert Turner (D-Racine) chairman of Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice, (608) 266-0731

Rep. Michael Sheridan (D-Janesville), speaker, (608) 266-7503

Rep. Peggy Krusick (D-Milwaukee), bill's author, (608) 266-1733

Key Senate members

Sen. Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) chair of Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, Insurance, Campaign Finance Reform, and Housing, (608) 266-5810

Sen. Russell Decker (D-Wausau), Senate majority leader, (608) 266-2502

Sen. Alberta Darling (R-River Hills), co-sponsor, (608) 266-5830

Other officials

Gov. Jim Doyle, (608) 266-1212

Need to find your elected officials? Go to www.legis.state.wi.us

Other cases affected by the law



Kevin Bohannon was robbed and killed as he walked through Mitchell Park on the south side in July 2006. The suspect's brother hid the gun, Assistant District Attorney Mark Williams said. The brother could not be charged.



Brandon Sprewer, a special Olympian, was robbed and murdered two months later as he was waiting for a bus on Milwaukee's northwest side. The gunman gave the murder weapon to his brother, who hid it, Williams said. Again, no charges.



Joey George was killed outside an Oak Creek bar a decade ago. The three suspects were helped by friends and family, authorities said. Only one unrelated friend was convicted of harboring.