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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2011-12

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Rural Economic Development and Rural Affairs...

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 Rural Economic Development and Rural Affairs

Assembly Bill 59

Relating to: semiannual meetings of small winery cooperative wholesalers.

By Representatives Steineke, A. Ott, Brooks, Kerkman, Kooyenga, Spanbauer, Tauchen and Weininger; cosponsored by Senators Cowles, Kedzie, Lassa, Olsen and Schultz.

March 24, 2011 Referred to Committee on Rural Economic Development and Rural Affairs.

May 4, 2011 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (14) Representatives A. Ott, Steineke, Petrowski, Murtha, Tauchen, Ripp, Krug, T. Larson, Rivard, Danou, Vruwink, Jorgensen, Roys and Ringhand.

Absent: (0) None.

Excused: (1) Representative Radcliffe.

Appearances For

- Representative Jim Steineke — 5th Assembly District
- Marion Weglarz, Muscoda — Wisconsin Winery Co-op
- David Ward, Madison — Cooperative Network
- Anne Reynolds, Madison — University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- George Klaetsch, Madison — Wisconsin Agribusiness Council

Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

May 18, 2011

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

Present: (14) Representatives A. Ott, Steineke, Petrowski, Murtha, Tauchen, Ripp, T. Larson, Rivard, Danou, Vruwink, Jorgensen, Radcliffe, Roys and Ringhand.

Absent: (0) None.

Excused: (1) Representative Krug.

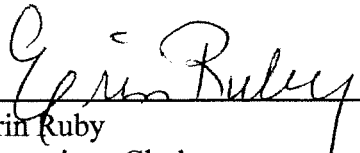
Moved by Representative Petrowski, seconded by Representative Steineke that **Assembly Bill 59** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (14) Representatives A. Ott, Steineke, Petrowski, Murtha, Tauchen, Ripp, T. Larson, Rivard, Danou, Vruwink, Jorgensen, Radcliffe, Roys and Ringhand.

Noes: (0) None.

Absent: (1) Representative Krug.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 14, Noes 0


Erin Ruby
Committee Clerk

Vote Record

Committee on Rural Economic Development and Rural Affairs

Date: 5/18/11

Moved by: Petrowski

Seconded by: Steineke

AB 59 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 Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jim Steineke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative John Murtha	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Gary Tauchen	<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"/>
Representative Scott Krug	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Thomas Larson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Roger Rivard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Chris Danou	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Amy Sue Vruwink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Andy Jorgensen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mark Radcliffe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Kelda Helen Roys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Janis Ringhand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>14</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Motion Carried Motion Failed





1 South Pinckney Street, Suite 810, Madison, WI 53703-2869
608.258.4400 fax 608.258.4407

400 Selby Avenue, Suite Y, St. Paul, MN 55102-4520
651.228.0213 fax 651.228.1184

www.cooperativenetwork.coop

May 4, 2011

To: Assembly Committee on Rural Economic Development and Rural Affairs

From: David Ward, Director of Government Relations & Dairy

Re: Support of Assembly Bill 59

Cooperative Network represents 600 cooperatives, mutual insurance companies, and credit unions owned by approximately 2.9 million Wisconsin members. We would like to register our support for AB 59 today. Cooperative Network helped Wisconsin's two small winery cooperative wholesaler's form and get up and running after 2007 Wisconsin Act 85 gave small wineries in Wisconsin the option of distributing their product through a small winery cooperative wholesaler.

During the debate on 2007 Senate Bill 485, the legislation that became 2007 Wisconsin Act 85, and its companion, 2007 AB 795, Cooperative Network pointed out six areas in the legislation that we thought would cause problems for the small winery cooperative wholesalers. The requirement to meet at least once every six months with the Department of Revenue (DOR) and the UW Center for Cooperatives was one item we pointed out as "highly unusual" intervention in the organization and business of a cooperative owned and controlled by its members.

Cooperative Network stresses that cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Board members are elected by the owner-members from the membership. These directors are certainly accountable to the membership. Cooperative Network feels strongly that it is the board of directors and the membership who must decide how the cooperative should be administered.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to state our support for AB 59.





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June 7, 2011

To: Members, State Assembly

From: David Ward, Director of Government Relations & Dairy
John Manske, Director of Government Relations

Re: Support of Assembly Bill 59 on Wednesday's calendar

Cooperative Network represents 600 cooperatives, mutual insurance companies, and credit unions owned by approximately 2.9 million Wisconsin members. We are asking for your support of AB 59 on Wednesday's calendar. The bill is authored by Rep. Steineke and was recommended by a vote of 14-0 by the Rural Economic Development and Rural Affairs Committee. Cooperative Network helped Wisconsin's two small winery cooperative wholesalers form after 2007 Wisconsin Act 85 gave small wineries in Wisconsin the option of distributing their product through a small winery cooperative wholesaler.

During the debate on 2007 Senate Bill 485, the legislation that became 2007 Wisconsin Act 85, Cooperative Network pointed out six areas in the legislation that we thought would cause problems for the small winery cooperative wholesalers. The requirement to meet at least once every six months with the Department of Revenue (DOR) and the UW Center for Cooperatives was one item we pointed out as "highly unusual" intervention in the organization and business of a cooperative owned and controlled by its members.

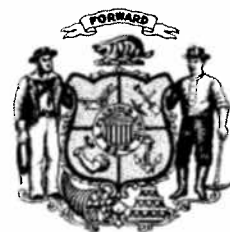
Cooperative Network stresses that cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Board members are elected by the owner-members from the membership. These directors are certainly accountable to the membership. Cooperative Network feels strongly that it is the board of directors and the membership who must decide how the cooperative should be administered.

AB 59 is also supported by the UW Center for Cooperatives.

Thank you for considering our request of support for AB 59.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





JIM STEINEKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 5th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-2418
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0005
Rep.Steineke@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

TESTIMONY ON AB59

Mr Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today as the author of Assembly Bill 59. This is a bill that was introduced last session and enjoyed widespread support.

This bill is simple in that it seeks to eliminate an onerous requirement on small wineries that are part of a cooperative to report every six months to the Department of Revenue and the UW Center for Cooperatives. As small business owners, the members of the cooperative have found this requirement to be time consuming and ultimately unproductive.

This provision was a part of 2007 Act 85 and concerns over this particular requirement were raised by the Cooperative Network at that time.

Today you will also hear from a representative of the cooperative as well as the Cooperatives Network themselves.

I ask you to join me in helping to eliminate this unnecessary burden on small businesses in Wisconsin.



IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 59

Wisconsin Winery Co-op

RE: SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING & BIENNIAL REPORTS

We would like everyone to know that the Dept. of Revenue personnel were great to work with. All questions and details in regards to starting the WI Winery Co-op were handled in a very timely manner.

I would like to add that the University of WI Dept. of Cooperatives was also most helpful in the start up of our Cooperative.

Now that the Co-op is in our third year, the Co-op's business is moving along very smoothly.

The Wisconsin Winery Co-op holds a Wisconsin distributor's license. Part of that requirement in holding that license is that we provide monthly reports to the Dept. of Revenue.

That report describes the amount of wine product we sell every month.

We have employed Suby Von Haden as our CPA firm for handling all of our money transactions, and the M & I Bank for our banking needs.

Our Co-op board meets every month via phone-conference and we are able to accomplish all of our business needs in this manner; by phone.

Now that we know that the business needs can be handled by phone, we ask that this mandatory requirement to meet in person be eliminated.

The time spent by Co-op board members and by myself, the valuable time spent by the Dept. of Revenue personnel and the University of Wisconsin Dept. of Cooperative's personnel, from scheduling a meeting, to travel time to that meeting place, money spent for fuel and other related costs are far too costly to all parties involved.

Through this project of developing the Co-op, we know who the contact persons are in the Revenue Dept. and the Center for Cooperatives and now feel that mandatory face-to-face meeting should not be required and we hope you feel this way too.

Marion J. Weglarz

President of the Wisconsin Winery Co-op