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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2011-12

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Labor, Public Safety, and Urban
Affairs (SC-LPSUA)

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**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Mike Barman (LRB) (July/2012)

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Labor, Public Safety, and Urban Affairs

Senate Bill 531

Relating to: exempting a city, town, village, or school district from a county library tax.

By Senator Darling; cosponsored by Representatives J. Ott, LeMahieu and Stroebel.

March 06, 2012 Referred to Committee on Labor, Public Safety, and Urban Affairs.

March 8, 2012 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (5) Senators Wanggaard, Grothman, Lazich, Wirch and King.

Absent: (0) None.

Excused: (0) None.

Appearances For

- Jim Ott — Representative, 23rd Assembly District

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- Alberta Darling — Senator, 8th Senate District
- Curt Gielow — Mayor, City of Mequon

Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

March 9, 2012 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (5) Senators Wanggaard, Grothman, Lazich, Wirch and King.

Absent: (0) None.

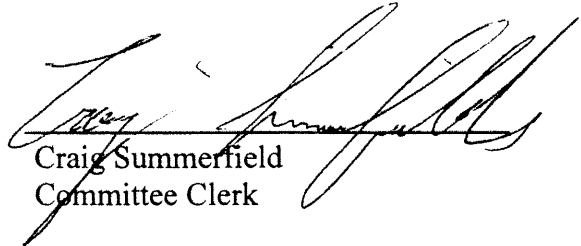
Excused: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Grothman, seconded by Senator Lazich that
Senate Bill 531 be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (3) Senators Wanggaard, Grothman and Lazich.

Noes: (2) Senators Wirch and King.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 3, Noes 2



Craig Summerfield
Committee Clerk

Vote Record
Committee on Labor, Public Safety, and Urban Affairs

Date: 3/9/12

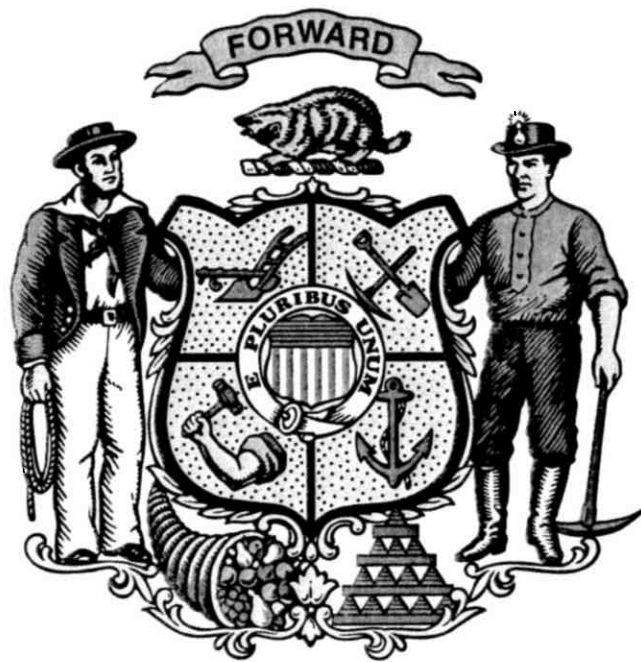
Moved by: GRATHMAN Seconded by: LAZICH

AB _____ SB 531 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:
- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passage | <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption | <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation | <input type="checkbox"/> Concurrence | <input type="checkbox"/> Indefinite Postponement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection | <input type="checkbox"/> Tabling | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonconcurrency | |

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Van Wanggaard, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Glenn Grothman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Mary Lazich	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Wirch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Jessica King	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	_____	_____





OZAUKEE COUNTY CHAIRMAN

Robert A. Brooks, Ozaukee County Chairman
www.co.ozaukee.wi.us

Wednesday, March 07, 2012

Senator Van Wanggaard
Room 319 South
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 531

Dear Senator Wanggaard:

We are writing this letter to express Ozaukee County's wholehearted support of SB 531.

The Ozaukee County Board places a high level of importance on providing library services to all Ozaukee County residents, including those who do not reside in local municipalities that have established public libraries.

The library tax reimbursement formula, per Sec. 46.34 of the State Statutes, utilizes equalized property values to determine the required financial support to meet the county library tax exemption threshold. Unfortunately this formula is severely and unfairly biased against libaried communities where housing market conditions over the past several years have caused equalized property values to increase more rapidly relative to other local Wisconsin communities.

The proposal to amend Sec. 46.34 of the State Statutes allowing for an alternative county library tax calculation for a libaried municipality is appropriate and needed. SB 531 will allow for an alternative exemption from the county library tax with the appropriate review and approval of the jurisdictional county board. This reform is desperately needed to address the unfortunate reality of disproportionate growth in Ozaukee County valuations and throughout the State. We thank you for your leadership on this issue and likewise urge your Legislative colleagues to support SB 531 to address these unfortunate but unintended consequences of the existing statutory language.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT A. BROOKS
COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN

THOMAS W. MEAUX
COUNTY ADMINSTRATOR

CC: Representative Ott



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





11333 N. Cedarburg Road 60W
Mequon, Wisconsin 53092
Phone (262) 236-2944
Fax (262) 242-9819
mayor@ci.mequon.wi.us

Mayor Curt Gielow

March 7, 2012

The Honorable State Senator Van H. Wanggaard
Chairman
Committee on Labor, Public Safety, and Urban Affairs
State Capitol, Room 319 South
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Wanggaard and Committee Members:

I write on behalf of the City of Mequon in support of 2011 S.B. 531 as it concerns exemptions to the county library tax. It provides a means to level out what has historically been wild fluctuations for cities like Mequon that have a high equalized value.

The City of Mequon, in partnership with its sister municipality, the Village of Thiensville, has always met or exceeded funding requirements for our joint library, especially when we consider meeting our obligations under the old maintenance of effort requirement. But the current county library tax formula, which is still in place, will continue to periodically penalize Mequon because of the methodology which is linked to equalized value. S.B. 531 appears to address that problem, and we whole heartedly urge passage of S.B. 531

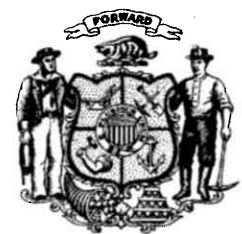
Sincerely,

Curtis C. Gielow
Mayor

Cc: Common Council



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Summerfield, Craig

From: dmostby@mmm.com
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:15 AM
To: Summerfield, Craig
Cc: townofhudson@baldwin-telecom.net; johnsonsbodysshop@sbcglobal.net; mayor@ci.hudson.wi.us; gklein@northhudsonvillage.org
Subject: Joint library comments

Craig,

Please have my comments read into the record at the hearing for **SB531**.

My name is David Ostby, an elected Township Supervisor, Town of Hudson and an appointed Trustee to the Hudson Area Joint Library. Having just heard about SB 531, I can not stress enough the importance and urgency of passing this legislation. The intent here is EXACTLY what is happening to us in the Hudson area.

With the recent budget constraints placed upon Wisconsin townships, we have not been able to raise levies to keep up with requests for additional support for our library. Our position has been that supporting emergency services (fire, ambulance, snow/winter maintenance, etc) is more important than the library - no one died from not being able to check out a book. Consequently, funding for the joint library has fallen behind the requested levels. The Library Board hired a consultant whose conclusions support the abolishing of our joint library forcing the partners into HUGE tax/support increases for the library to the tune of 40%. We the partners almost feel this is a blackmail scenario where this is our only option - the other possibly being shut down the library.

If supported under a county library system, increases in support are exempt from levy increase limits. Could this exemption be extended to towns??

We need this legislation to prevent EXACTLY what is happening now in our community. I urge quick passage of this important legislation.

David Ostby
Supervisor, Town of Hudson
Hudson Area Joint Library Trustee



David M. Ostby | Server & Storage Technology Group
3M Information Technology
3M Center, 224-4N-20 | St. Paul, Minnesota 55144
Mobile: 651 334 2144 | Fax: 651 736 7689
dmostby@mmm.com | www.3M.com

Summerfield, Craig

From: Jeffrey JOHNSON [johnsonsbodyshop@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:42 AM

To: Summerfield, Craig

Cc: TOWNOFHUDSON@BALDWIN-TELECOM.NET

Subject: SUPPORT SB 531

Dear Mr. Summerfield, Without the passage of SB 531 the Hudson Joint Library will have to disband. We've met 3 times in the last week about this very issue. I was delighted to hear about this pending legislation. Our county (St Croix) has raised their Library Levy to 100% which will result in about a 40% increase in our Library Levy. We are currently funding our Library at 100% without this increase and even if we levied this additional amount we wouldn't have budget items to spend the additional \$400,000 on so it would end up in a surplus fund. It makes no sense to have a levy based on the average of the least efficient and most efficient libraries in the county. Sincerely, Jeff Johnson Hudson Town Chairman

Summerfield, Craig

From: Alan Burchill [mayor@ci.hudson.wi.us]

Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:58 PM

To: Summerfield, Craig

Subject: AB 543 and SB531

Dear Mr. Summerfield:

Please consider this an appeal to pass this legislation. Our joint library in the Hudson area will be at great peril if there is no relief. With the levy limits and the increase costs we have no room in the budget for the massive increase in the funding of our area library. Our library is a community asset and we must do everything possible to keep the library operational for our citizens.

Thank you for your time and if have any questions please feel free to contact me.

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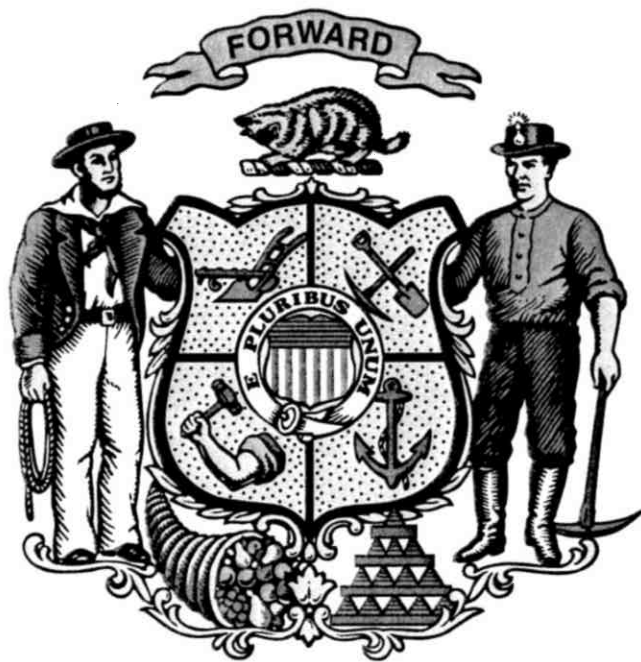
Alan D. Burchill, Mayor

City of Hudson

505 Third Street, Hudson, WI 54016

715-386-4765

mayor@ci.hudson.wi.us





JIM OTT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 23rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Date?

(608) 266-0486
District: (262) 240-0808
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0023
Rep.Ottj@legis.wi.gov

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

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SENATE BILL 531

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and committee members and thank you for holding this hearing today on Senate Bill 531.

SB 531 has been introduced to address what is currently a situation in Ozaukee County but could eventually develop in other counties as well. The bill was drafted in response to a constituent and has the support of the City of Mequon and the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors.

Under current law, a county board may levy a tax for the purpose of providing library services to county residents. This tax is normally assessed against property owners that reside in areas of the county that are not part of any library district, but may use other libraries in the county.

Under current law, communities in which libraries are located are exempted from the county library tax if they meet certain criteria. To remain exempt from the tax, the community must fund its library at a minimum of the tax rate times the community's equalized property value.

The problem is that as property values resume increasing as the economy is bound to improve, certain communities in Ozaukee County, and possibly elsewhere, will either have to collect more money from their residents than needed, or else be subject to the county library tax as well as the community's library tax. There is no rationale for tying the library tax in communities in which libraries are located strictly to current property values.

This bill provides an exemption from the county library tax if a community, (which is defined in the bill as a city, town, village or school district)

- a) levies a tax for public library services and spends for a library fund an amount that is not less than the average amount for the three previous years
- b) The county board approves the exemption, and,
- c) For the first year of the exemption under the new method the community qualified for the exemption under the method described under current law in the three previous years.

Therefore, this complicated sounding bill is really quite simple. There is no reason that a community should either have to overtax for library services or be taxed twice simply because property values have increased.

It is also non-controversial. This same bill passed the Assembly on a voice vote during the 2007 – 2008 Legislative Session. It is also revenue neutral. The fiscal note from DOR indicates no state fiscal impact, and an indeterminate impact on local communities.

Again thank you for holding this hearing today, and I will be glad to answer any questions.