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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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**2005 Wisconsin Act 305**  
[2005 Assembly Bill 596]

**Allocation of Municipal Court  
Collection Costs**

In the previous legislation session, 2003 Wisconsin Act 140 authorized municipal courts to contract with a collection agency to collect unpaid forfeitures, assessments, and surcharges for municipal ordinance violations. The collection costs are deducted before amounts collected are disbursed. It was intended that collection costs would be shared on a pro rata basis by those who receive the disbursement; however, that has not been the universal interpretation of the statutory language.

Act 305 clarifies that each entity on whose behalf the forfeitures, assessments, and surcharges are collected shares the cost of collection in proportion to the entity's entitlement to the amount collected.

**Effective Date:** Act 305 took effect April 21, 2006. It first applied to forfeitures, assessments, and surcharges collected on the effective date.

**Prepared by:** Don Dyke, Chief of Legal Services

May 10, 2006

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.