



## 2011 ASSEMBLY BILL 583

February 17, 2012 – Introduced by Representative J. FITZGERALD, cosponsored by Senator S. FITZGERALD. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

- 1     **AN ACT to create** 86.19 (1p) of the statutes; **relating to:** community welcoming  
2           signs within highway rights-of-way.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

With certain exceptions, current law prohibits any sign from being placed within a highway right-of-way unless the sign is necessary for the guidance or warning of traffic. Any sign placed in violation of this prohibition must be removed by the authority responsible for maintaining the highway. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for maintenance of highway rights-of-way on highways under its jurisdiction and may remove or require removal of encroaching structures and objects, including unauthorized signs, within the highway right-of-way.

This bill allows a city, village, town, or county (political subdivision) to retain and maintain a community welcoming sign within the right-of-way of a highway if the sign was erected prior to, and in existence on, the effective date of the bill. If DOT removed, or directed or advised the political subdivision to remove, the sign after December 31, 2009, DOT must replace or reconstruct the sign on the same site.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

