



EDWARD BROOKS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Testimony Assembly Bill 439
Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations
November 4, 2015

Mr. Chair and Members,

Thank you for hearing Assembly Bill 439 today. This proposal is a practical measure that provides uniformity to municipalities who must provide multiple public notices following certain local budget changes. The bill extends the notification deadline from 10 days to 15 days after any change is made providing a more uniform reporting set up for municipal clerks.

In rural Wisconsin we are most often served by a weekly newspaper. If a notice must be published before budget changes made by a municipality can go in to effect, making a weekly publication deadline isn't efficient under the current 10 day requirement. AB 439 just makes sense, and I hope you'll support this practical change for our municipal officials.

I am pleased to be joined by Stevens Point City Clerk, John Moe who will address some of the real-world implications of this bill.

Thank you again for hearing AB 439.



JULIE LASSA

STATE SENATOR

Testimony on Assembly Bill 439
Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations
Wednesday, November 4, 2015
225 Northwest

Chairman Swearingen and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Assembly Bill 439, which Representative Brooks and I have introduced to address an inconsistency in municipal noticing requirements. This is a simple bill that would change the publication notice for any municipal budget amendments from 10 days to 15 days from the time of its passage. The notice for publishing other official action on the municipal level is 15 days, so this will standardize publication requirements. This bill will also help smaller municipalities who may only be served by weekly newspapers. Currently, clerks in such communities might only have a small window to meet the publication deadlines. Failure to meet these deadlines will result in any changes not taking effect, which, as you know, would be detrimental to our communities. By simply allowing five more days we can be sure that municipalities have adequate time to report any changes while also giving the public appropriate notice.

AB 439, and its Senate counterpart, SB 310, have bi-partisan support in their co-sponsorship, and I hope you will give them your support as well. The League of Municipalities has also officially registered in support of this proposal.