



SB 486 Town Sanitary District Commission Size Flexibility

Testimony of Senator Steve Nass

Senate Committee on Labor & Government Reform

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Thank you committee members for allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill 486. This legislation will increase flexibility for local governments by authorizing a town to increase the number of commissioners on a town sanitary district commission from 3 to 5, if the commission is separate from the town board. A town can also reduce the number of commissioners from 5 back to 3.

Under the bill, a town meeting cannot direct their town board to change the number of commissioners more frequently than once every two years. The membership of a sanitary district commission will remain the same as the membership of the town board, if the town board performs the functions of the commission. The bill also maintains existing law that staggers the terms of elected sanitary commission members.

The idea for this change came from Town of Delavan elected officials in my district. They have experienced difficulty at times obtaining a quorum to act on their sanitary district commission with only 3 members. It would also reduce any chance of inadvertently violating open meeting requirements when two members happen to be at events together. These officials will testify later today to provide additional background on why they are requesting this change.

SB 486 will increase flexibility for local governments by giving them the option to increase the size of their sanitary district commission if authorized at a town meeting. It does not require any town to increase their commission's size. We have worked with the Wisconsin Towns Association in crafting the bill's language and they are supportive of it.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 486. If any committee members have further questions, I would happy to answer them at this time.

“In God We Trust”

11th Senate District

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882 • (608) 266-2635
Toll Free: (800) 578-1457 • E-mail: Sen.Nass@legis.wi.gov