



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

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Testimony on Assembly Bill 601

Thank you committee members for hearing Assembly Bill 601 (AB 601) today. The bill changes the contract period that the Department of Corrections (DOC) can enter into for GPS monitoring devices for tracking sex offenders from three years to seven years.

Under current law, DOC is limited to three-year contracts for these devices. This limitation creates numerous issues for the department and impedes on their ability to monitor offenders in a cost efficient manner. According to vendors seeking the contracts, the short timeframe would result in overall cost increases due to the significant upfront investment necessary to train and properly execute the service. Longer contracts would allow the vendor to offer significantly lower prices because they have more time to recover the initial cost and because DOC could use collective purchasing.

Some vendors have indicated that a contract with such a short term is simply not worth their effort. Obtaining the contract alone can be lengthy, not including the time it takes to properly develop and implement the service. Only one company placed a bid for the most recent contract and it ultimately did not meet DOC's standards forcing the department to initiate the process again, using valuable staff time. By extending the contract period, the competition would increase as well allowing the department to choose the best services for the best price.

The department requested this fix because a Request for Proposal was set to be issued in October, making this time sensitive.

These changes will give DOC more flexibility to assure taxpayer money is being spent efficiently while keeping communities safe. This bill was passed out of the Assembly in November and I encourage you to support its passage through the Senate.

Serving Racine and Kenosha Counties - Senate District 21



EDWARD BROOKS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

THANK YOU FOR HEARING 2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 601 TODAY.

THIS IS A SIMPLE BILL THAT LIMITS THE TERM TO SEVEN YEARS ON CONTRACTS FOR INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF GPS EQUIPMENT USED FOR TRACKING SEX OFFENDERS AND PERSONS WHO VIOLATED INJUNCTIONS. THE CURRENT LAW TERM LIMIT IS THREE YEARS.

ORIGINALLY, THERE WAS NO LANGUAGE LIMITING THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT WHEN WISCONSIN ENACTED GPS MONITORING OF SEX OFFENDERS AND OTHERS IN 2005.

IN 2007, UNDER AN OMNIBUS CORRECTIONS MOTION OFFERED BY REPS. SUDER AND POCAN, THE THREE YEAR CONTRACT TERM LANGUAGE WAS INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET BILL AND EVENTUALLY BECAME LAW. I DON'T KNOW WHY IT WAS INCLUDED, BUT I DO KNOW THAT NOW IT IS PROBLEMATIC FROM A TAXPAYER STANDPOINT AS WELL AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE STANDPOINT.

I'D LIKE TO QUICKLY ADDRESS SOME OF MY COLLEAGUE'S QUESTIONS THAT I'VE RECEIVED UP UNTIL NOW:

- 1) DO OTHER STATES UTILIZE CONTRACTS FOR GPS MONITORING OF SEX OFFENDERS THAT ARE LONGER THAN THREE YEARS? YES.

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- 2) IS THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS PARTY TO CONTRACTS FOR OTHER SERVICES THAT HAVE TERMS LONGER THAN THREE YEARS?
YES.

I'LL LET REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS ADDRESS THE DETAILS AND SPECIFIC IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED WITH CURRENTL LAW IN THEIR TESTIMONY.

I HOPE YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS GOOD, STRAIGHT FORWARD LEGISLATION THAT IS WORTHY OF YOUR RECOMMENDATION AT THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT EXECUTIVE SESSION.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.



Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Scott Walker | Secretary Jon E. Litscher

AB-601

Relating to: length of contracts for electronic monitoring equipment

Speaking in favor

Mr. Chairman, Committee members. Thank you for holding a hearing on LRB-0604 (AB601), I want to thank Representative Ed Brooks for authoring this legislation.

This bill very simply changes the length of the contract for electronic monitoring equipment from a maximum of three (3) years to a maximum of seven (7) years.

The benefit of a longer contract is an increased number of companies will compete for the DOC business, allowing the market to reduce costs and increase the quality of services, equipment and technology.

In the late 1990's, the technology used for this type of tracking was relatively limited in what information it could provide. Today we have a wide variety of devices that can provide real time blood alcohol concentrations and real time GPS tracking updated every minute and accurate to within a couple feet.

The Department of Corrections actively monitors the signals from these devices 24 hours a day seven days a week. This new technology allows DOC to provide immediate and accurate information to law enforcement and probation and parole agents.

When a 3-year contract is signed it takes about 6 months for the vendor to move the equipment into each of the 72 counties and place the units on each offender, leaving about 30 months left on the contract. It normally takes from 6 months to a year to send out and approve an RFP for a new contract provided there are no issues. In the last RFP process three vendors other than the one currently holding the contract expressed an interest but did not bid. When asked why, all stated it was in-part the length of the contract.

The 3 year maximum also limits our use of collective purchasing like US Communities or NASPO, these collective purchase contracts are of a longer duration than 3 years. Therefore we cannot stay on the contract with other states and we lose that pricing. A longer contract would allow us to take advantage of the volume purchasing power of the collective contracts.

Some benefits of changing the maximum length of the contract include;

- 1) Reduced number of work hours spent on a short repetitive RFP process
- 2) An increased ability to access the latest technology in monitoring equipment
- 3) Reduced costs through improved contract negotiations

Thank you for your time today. The Department of Corrections would like to encourage passing AB601

Donald R Friske
Director, Legislative Affairs
Department of Corrections