



DEVIN LEMAHIEU

STATE SENATOR

Chairman Stroebel and Committee Members,

Thank you for holding today's hearing on Senate Bill 436. This legislation makes practical changes to current law regarding the distribution of Blue Books and state highway maps.

Current law requires each Senate office to receive 600 copies of the Wisconsin Blue Book, and each Assembly office to receive 350 copies. Additionally, each legislative office is required to receive 500 folded highway maps and 50 laminated highway service maps. Each year, hundreds of these materials are not distributed and go to waste. Currently, thousands of Blue Books and state highway maps are sitting in the basement of the capitol going unused.

Senate Bill 436 allows legislators to reduce the amount of Wisconsin Blue Books, folded state highway maps and laminated service maps they receive each biennium. Under this proposal, all legislative offices will still have the opportunity to request the current statutory allotment of each publication.

The Department of Administration printed over 64,800 editions of the 2019-20 Blue Book this year, with a total cost of over \$290,000. The Department of Transportation distributed over 1 million copies of the 2017-18 folded highway maps and 8,000 copies of the laminated highway service maps this year, totaling over \$154,000 spent on printing and distributing maps alone.

This bill does not limit access to the Wisconsin Blue Book. The most recent edition will still be made publicly available online in a format that is searchable by keyword. Members of the public and other entities will still have access to a hard copy of these materials through requests to their legislative offices.

This proposal has received bi-partisan support in both houses. I encourage you to vote yes to SB 436 to reduce wasteful spending of taxpayer dollars. Thank you for your consideration.



Testimony of Rep. Don Vruwink

Senate Bill 436

November 14, 2019

Before the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Technology, and Consumer Protection

Thank you, Chairman Stroebel, for the opportunity to testify today. I want to start out by saying that I am by no means anti-Blue Book nor anti-map. My constituents appreciate Blue Books and highway maps.

The Legislative Reference Bureau does a tremendous job putting together the Blue Book. It is a truly valuable resource.

The reason I drafted this bill with Senator LeMahieu is because not all Blue Books and highway maps get distributed to the public.

Unfortunately, many of these materials end up in our landfills and recycling centers without ever reaching the hands of the public.

This is a tremendous waste of resources, tax dollars, and landfill space.

I also want to note that more and more people look up information on-line. Many of my interns never open a Blue Book. They google everything. Likewise, more and more people use their phones to navigate instead of maps.

I know that many people value the Blue Books and highway maps that are paid for by the Wisconsin taxpayer.

But not all legislators distribute all of the Blue Books and highway maps that automatically show up in their offices.

This bill simply gives legislators the freedom to opt out of Blue Books and highway maps, or to choose a smaller amount than is specified under current law.

THANK YOU.