



TONY KURTZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 50th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony for the Assembly Committee on Local Government

Assembly Bill 314

Good morning, Chairman Novak and committee members. Thank you for holding this hearing today on Assembly Bill 314, relating to state aid for prizes awarded at local fairs.

2023 Wisconsin Act 19, the most recent state budget, provides an additional \$193,600 annually to aids for county and district fairs, bringing the state aid up to a total of \$650,000. Senator Ballweg and I submitted the motion for this increased funding in order to ensure that all of the fairs would see additional aid after the changes in this bill are made.

Last session, DATCP promulgated CR 21-093. This committee partially objected to a provision that prohibited someone from being able to collect a state-aided premium for their exhibit at multiple fairs. This discourages increased participation at fairs and places an administrative burden on fairs that is difficult to enforce, especially smaller fairs like the Juneau County Fair and Elroy Fair in the 50th Assembly District.

Assembly Bill 314 prohibits DATCP from promulgating the objected portions of CR 21-093 and increases the cap on state aid that fairs can receive from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

This bill reflects our agreement with the Wisconsin Association of Fairs to ensure all fairs receive an increase in aid to appropriately cover their costs as well as the expected costs associated with the policy changes. I am proud to stand by all of our local fairs to advocate for the state to continue to recognize and celebrate the incredible agricultural contributions of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of Assembly Bill 314. I am happy to take any questions you may have.



JOAN BALLWEG

STATE SENATOR • 14TH SENATE DISTRICT

**Assembly Bill 314: State Aid for Prizes Awarded at Local Fairs
Assembly Committee on Local Government
Testimony of Senator Joan Ballweg
September 20, 2023**

Good morning, members of the committee. Thank you for hearing this important legislation to support our county and district fairs.

Last session, the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Tourism partially objected to a new DATCP rule on county and district fairs (CR 21-093) that prohibited someone from being able to present their exhibit at multiple fairs and receive a state-aided premium. The concern from the committee, as well as several fairs that testified, is this rule would serve as a disincentive for participation at fairs and place a difficult administrative burden on fairs to be able to enforce the rule. Following the committee's action on the rule, Representative Kurtz and I continued to have discussions with the Wisconsin Association of Fairs, various individual fairs, and DATCP to find a mutually agreeable solution.

This bill prohibits DATCP from enforcing the portions of the rule that were objected to, and it also increases the cap on state aid that fairs can receive from \$10,000 to \$20,000. In addition to this legislation, we worked on a budget motion through the Joint Committee on Finance to successfully increase the annual funding for County Fair Aids from \$456,400 to \$650,000 per year.

The state provides aid to county and district fairs based on the premiums awarded for fair exhibits, but prior to this budget, the funding was not enough to cover the amount fairs submitted for reimbursement. The increase in funding and doubling the cap on reimbursements will ensure that all fairs are kept whole and that they will receive additional aid to more appropriately cover their costs, including any expected costs associated with the policy changes in this bill.

This bill is supported by the Wisconsin Association of Fairs. Senate Bill 311, the senate companion bill, passed the full senate on a voice vote on September 14, 2023. Thank you for your consideration.

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	WISCONSIN COUNTY AND DISTRICT FAIR PREMIUMS						
2	COLUMN G IS PAYOUT SCENARIO BASED ON 2022 FAIR NUMBERS WITH \$456K STATE AID WITH A \$10K CAP						
3	COLUMN H IS PAYOUT SCENARIO BASED ON 2022 FAIR NUMBERS WITH \$650K STATE AID WITH A \$20K CAP						
4	FAIR CALENDAR 2022					State Aid	State Aid
5						Maximum	Maximum
6			1st formula step	2nd fomula step	after formulas	CAP	CAP
7	Fair Name	FAIR PREMIUMS PAID OUT 2022	95% of first 8,000	70%>8,000	Total	10,000.00	20,000.00
8							
9	Adams Co.	3,926.50	3,730.18	0	3,730.18	3,345.94	3,730.18
10	Ashland Co.	3,768.00	3,579.60	0	3,579.60	3,210.87	3,579.60
11	Barron Co.	20,398.50	7,600.00	8,678.95	16,278.95	8,969.91	16,278.95
12	Bayfield Co.	6,190.75	5,881.21	0	5,881.21	5,275.39	5,881.21
13	Brown Co.	11,212.25	7,600.00	2,248.58	9,848.58	8,834.09	9,848.58
14	Buffalo Co.	9,296.75	7,600.00	907.73	8,507.73	7,631.36	8,507.73
15	Burnett Co.	5,554.50	5,276.78	0	5,276.78	4,733.22	5,276.78
16	Central Burnett	1,787.75	1,698.36	0	1,698.36	1,523.41	1,698.36
17	Calumet Co.	8,945.25	7,600.00	661.68	8,261.68	7,410.65	8,261.68
18	Northern WI State	18,692.50	7,600.00	7,484.75	15,084.75	8,969.91	15,084.75
19	Clark Co.	11,180.50	7,600.00	2,226.35	9,826.35	8,814.15	9,826.35
20	Columbia Co.	7,896.25	7,501.44	0	7,501.44	6,728.72	7,501.44
21	Lodi Union/Ag Fair	7,347.75	6,980.36	0	6,980.36	6,261.32	6,980.36
22	Crawford Co.	6,422.75	6,101.61	0	6,101.61	5,473.09	6,101.61
23	Dane Co.	10,529.25	7,600.00	1,770.48	9,370.48	8,405.24	9,370.48
24	Dodge Co.	13,801.50	7,600.00	4,061.05	11,661.05	8,969.91	11,661.05
25	Door Co.	4,995.75	4,745.96	0	4,745.96	4,257.08	4,745.96
26	Head-of-the-Lakes	4,190.75	3,981.21	0	3,981.21	3,571.11	3,981.21
27	Dunn Co.	4,640.50	4,408.48	0	4,408.48	3,954.37	4,408.48
28	Eau Claire Co.	4,924.00	4,677.80	0	4,677.80	4,195.94	4,677.80
29	Florence Co.	710.75	675.21	0	675.21	605.66	675.21
30	Fond du Lac Co.	8,640.00	7,600.00	448.00	8,048.00	7,218.98	8,048.00
31	Forest Co.	886.25	841.94	0	841.94	755.21	841.94
32	Blakes Prairie	3,344.75	3,177.51	0	3,177.51	2,850.20	3,177.51
33	Grant Co.	10,075.75	7,600.00	1,453.03	9,053.03	8,120.49	9,053.03
34	Green Co.	7,800.50	7,410.48	0	7,410.48	6,647.13	7,410.48
35	Green Lake Co.	5,154.00	4,896.30	0	4,896.30	4,391.94	4,896.30
36	Iowa Co.	8,553.50	7,600.00	387.45	7,987.45	7,164.67	7,987.45
37	Iron Co.	3,604.75	3,424.51	0	3,424.51	3,071.75	3,424.51
38	Jackson Co.	9,514.25	7,600.00	1,059.98	8,659.98	7,767.92	8,659.98
39	Jefferson Co.	17,118.50	7,600.00	6,382.95	13,982.95	8,969.91	13,982.95
40	Elroy	5,169.75	4,911.26	0	4,911.26	4,405.36	4,911.26
41	Juneau Co.	4,541.00	4,313.95	0	4,313.95	3,869.57	4,313.95
42	Kenosha Co.	17,770.25	7,600.00	6,839.18	14,439.18	8,969.91	14,439.18
43	Kewaunee Co.	6,008.55	5,708.12	0	5,708.12	5,120.13	5,708.12
44	LaCrosse Interstate	14,042.00	7,600.00	4,229.40	11,829.40	8,969.91	11,829.40
45	Lafayette Co.	5,245.25	4,982.99	0	4,982.99	4,469.70	4,982.99
46	Langlade Co.	5,740.00	5,453.00	0	5,453.00	4,891.29	5,453.00
47	Lincoln Co.	5,416.50	5,145.68	0	5,145.68	4,615.63	5,145.68
48	Manitowoc Co.	10,575.25	7,600.00	1,802.68	9,402.68	8,343.12	9,402.68
49	Athens	5,492.25	5,217.64	0	5,217.64	4,680.18	5,217.64

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5						Maximum	Maximum	
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7	Fair Name	FAIR PREMIUMS PAID OUT 2022	95% of first 8,000	70%>8,000	Total	10,000.00	20,000.00	
8								
50	Wisconsin Valley *	15,555.25	7,600.00	5,288.68	12,888.68	8,969.91	12,888.68	
51	Marquette Co.	5,065.25	4,811.99	0	4,811.99	4,316.31	4,811.99	
52	Marquette Co.	4,431.00	4,209.45	0	4,209.45	3,775.84	4,209.45	
53	Monroe Co.	10,148.50	7,600.00	1,503.95	9,103.95	8,166.16	9,103.95	
54	Oconto Co.	5,577.50	5,298.63	0	5,298.63	4,752.82	5,298.63	
55	Oneida Co.	455.00	432.25	0	432.25	387.72	432.25	
56	Outagamie Co.	11,128.00	7,600.00	2,189.60	9,789.60	8,781.18	9,789.60	
57	Ozaukee Co.	8,768.25	7,600.00	537.78	8,137.78	7,299.51	8,137.78	
58	Pierce Co.	15,118.75	7,600.00	4,983.13	12,583.13	8,969.91	12,583.13	
59	Polk Co.	11,358.00	7,600.00	2,350.60	9,950.60	8,925.60	9,950.60	
60	Portage Co.**	5,834.75	5,543.01	0	5,543.01	4,972.03	5,543.01	
61	Price Co.	3,457.50	3,284.63	0	3,284.63	2,946.28	3,284.63	
62	Racine Co.	17,290.50	7,600.00	6,503.35	14,103.35	8,969.91	14,103.35	
63	Richland Center	7,551.50	7,173.93	0	7,173.93	6,434.95	7,173.93	
64	Rock Co.	13,969.25	7,600.00	4,178.48	11,778.48	8,969.91	11,778.48	
65	Rusk Co.	3,964.00	3,765.80	0	3,765.80	3,377.89	3,765.80	
66	Sauk Co.	8,495.50	7,600.00	346.85	7,946.85	7,128.25	7,946.85	
67	Sawyer Co.	3,841.95	3,649.85	0	3,649.85	3,273.88	3,649.85	
68	Shawano Co.	18,462.00	7,600.00	7,323.40	14,923.40	8,969.91	14,923.40	
69	Sheboygan Co.	13,009.25	7,600.00	3,506.48	11,106.48	8,969.91	11,106.48	
70	St. Croix Co.	11,133.25	7,600.00	2,193.28	9,793.28	8,784.48	9,793.28	
71	Taylor Co.	3,061.50	2,908.43	0	2,908.43	2,608.84	2,908.43	
72	Trempeleau Co.	7,976.75	7,577.91	0	7,577.91	6,797.32	7,577.91	
73	Vernon Co.	16,200.25	7,600.00	5,740.18	13,340.18	8,969.91	13,340.18	
74	Vilas Co.	2,284.75	2,170.51	0	2,170.51	1,946.93	2,170.51	
75	Walworth Co.	42,193.75	7,600.00	23,935.63	31,535.63	8,969.91	20,000.00	
76	Washburn Co.	5,666.75	5,383.41	0	5,383.41	4,828.87	5,383.41	
77	Washington Co.	10,724.00	7,600.00	1,906.80	9,506.80	8,527.51	9,506.80	
78	Waukesha Co.	9,081.50	7,600.00	757.05	8,357.05	7,496.20	8,357.05	
79	Waupaca Co.	10,493.25	7,600.00	1,745.28	9,345.28	8,382.63	9,345.28	
80	Waushara Co.	8,197.00	7,600.00	137.90	7,737.90	6,940.83	7,737.90	
81	Winnebago Co.	10,351.25	7,600.00	1,645.88	9,245.88	8,293.47	9,245.88	
82	Central WI State	22,298.95	7,600.00	10,009.27	17,609.27	8,969.91	17,609.27	
83								
84	Total	664,250.20	444,531.38	137,425.81	581,957.19	456,309.03	570,421.56	
85				STATE AID	456,000.00	456,000.00	650,000.00	
86				OVER/SHORT	-125,957.19	-309.03	79,578.44	