



LOREN OLDENBURG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 96th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony on Assembly Bill 951

Relating to: the fee for filing limited liability company articles of organization with the Department of Financial Institutions.

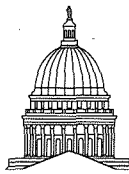
Assembly Committee on Financial Institutions

Wednesday, January 31st, 2024

Good morning, Chairwoman Duchow and committee members. Thank you for holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 951 today. Wisconsin has a history of taking action to encourage business creation. 2017 Act 177 exempted student entrepreneurs age 18 and older who are enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution from the \$130 LLC filing fee.

Hunter, a young high school entrepreneur from Westby, reached out to the representatives in his area and asked if he would have to pay this fee when he started his business knowing of the exemption. He could wait until he was enrolled full time in college a few months later or pay the fee now and start his business. It turns out he did qualify for the exemption as he is currently taking a single technical college course at Western Technical College. Not every high school student will be in his dual enrollment situation, many will turn 18 very early their senior years too. Assembly Bill 951 would provide uniformity for all 18 year old student entrepreneurs by closing the gap between the months these students turn 18 and when they enter higher education.

It's important that we don't keep unnecessary barriers such as this one and treat all student entrepreneurs equally. AB 951 will make a small but useful technical change that we hope will continue the success of 2017 act 177. Thank you again for holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 951 today, I am happy to take any questions.



JULIAN BRADLEY
WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

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Thank you to Chairwoman Duchow and the members of the committee for accepting my testimony on behalf of Assembly Bill 951 (AB 951). This proposal seeks to build on Wisconsin's history of encouraging business creation by specifically seeking to foster young entrepreneurs.

2017 Act 177 waived LLC filing fees for those starting a business while enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution here in Wisconsin. AB 951 would ensure equal treatment for all students by extending this fee waiver to those still in high school.

Every year since the filing fee was eliminated for those attending college or technical school, the number of students seeking to register an LLC has increased – from 189 in 2018 to 1,149 in 2023. By removing barriers to entry, we can make the pathway to prosperity clearer and more attainable to the next generation of innovators.

Please join me, NFIB, NAIOP, WEDA, and the Wisconsin Realtors Association in supporting AB 951.