

Dear WRHLC and WAA Members,

Bill to Review Building Code Proposed
Co-Sponsorship Memorandum

To: Legislative Colleagues
From: Representative John Jagler & Senator Paul Farrow
Date: February 25, 2013
RE: Co-Sponsorship of LRB -1443/1 – Mandatory reviews of the one- and 2-family building code

We are introducing legislation that will require a mandatory review of the standards and rules for one- and 2- family dwelling construction (the Uniform Dwelling Code) by the dwelling code council.

Under current law there is no specific cycle under which the Uniform Dwelling Code is reviewed. As drafted, this bill requires the dwelling code council to submit a report with any recommendations for the Uniform Dwelling Code to the Department of Safety and Professional Services once every six years. The first report must be completed within 365 days of the passage of the bill. The emergency rule making process would still be in effect for any changes that would need to be made in between reviews. By establishing a six-year cycle for the review of the Uniform Dwelling Code there would be increased regulatory certainty throughout the state.

By adopting this legislation, Wisconsin would join states such as Connecticut and Arkansas, who utilize a similar six year cycle for dwelling code review.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Dwelling Code Council (council) must review the standards and rules for the uniform dwelling code, which applies to the construction of one and two family dwellings (dwellings) and makes recommendations to the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS) regarding these rules. This bill requires the council prepare a report containing these reviews and recommendations once every six years and requires that the first report be completed no later than one year after this bill becomes law. The bill also requires DPS to assist the council in preparing the report.

Walker Adds Statewide Residency Requirement to State Budget

Gov. Scott Walker has included a provision in his budget plan to end residency requirements for public workers, saying schools and other municipalities should not tell their employees where to live. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported the plan would affect current and future employees in about 127 municipalities, including Milwaukee, the state's largest city.

Walker had been expected to push for an end to residency rules in Milwaukee, but it wasn't clear until his biennial budget address Wednesday night that he wanted to eliminate them statewide.

Milwaukee city officials, including Democratic Mayor Tom Barrett, oppose Walker's plan to abandon the city's 75-year-old residency law, saying it has not hurt the city's ability to hire and comes at a time when the city has many empty homes because of foreclosures. Barrett also told the newspaper that Walker was looking to eliminate the residency requirement because Milwaukee police and firefighters don't like it and they backed Walker in last year's recall election. Barrett ran unsuccessfully against Walker in that election.

Spokesmen for the Wisconsin Counties Association and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, told The Associated Press on Thursday that they weren't sure what the effect would be outside Milwaukee County if Walker was successful. Jon Hochkammer, legislative director of the Wisconsin Counties Association, said he didn't know of any counties other than Milwaukee County that had residency rules. Dan Thompson, executive director of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, which represents about 600 cities and villages, said he thought the impact might be greater in smaller communities where there was a more limited supply of potential workers and officials might be more tempted to hire non-residents.

Madison and Green Bay have limited residency requirements. Madison requires department heads to live in the city and other municipal professional and supervisors to live in surrounding Dane County. Other employees can live where they wish. In Green Bay, only department heads are required to live in the city.

Thompson said he was surprised to see the residency rules addressed in Walker's budget plan and would have preferred that the two issues be kept separate. He said he will discuss the proposal with member municipalities in the next two weeks before taking a position on it.

Sen. Carpenter Says Residency Requirements Have No Business Being in Budget

This is a press release from Sen. Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee).

State Senator Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) called on the Co-Chairs of the Joint Finance Committee to strip out policy items contained in Governor Walker's Budget. On February 20th, Governor Walker made public his proposed state budget for Wisconsin. Much like a hidden needle in a haystack, there was one little sentence buried deep inside the bowels of his proposed budget. This little sentence would repeal 127 local elected governments' residency requirements for its public employees. Milwaukee's policy on residency has been around since 1938. This is a major policy item, not fiscal in nature, that has no business being in the state budget. In fact, legislators for many years have introduced separate bills repealing local residency requirements for public employees.

In addition Governor Walker is abandoning the long held conservative principal of respecting local control. The Governor's new mantra must be I'm from Madison and I know what's best for you.

Speaker Tip O'Neal believed that "All politics is local" and I agree; local elected officials are best suited to

meet the needs of their communities since they are the ones closest to them.

Governor Walker has decided to run a “stick it to Milwaukee” campaign with his past and present budgets. If Wisconsin repeals local residency requirements it will have devastating consequences for Milwaukee. Slipping a state repeal of local residency requirements in the budget violates the principals of respecting local control and the prohibition on jamming non-fiscal policy items in the state budget.

Even a NFL replacement referee could have gotten the call right on this one. It’s just too bad that the Governor couldn’t.

Senator Carpenter’s press releases are available for review at <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/sen03/news>

Upcoming Political Events

Fundraising event for Sen. Frank Lasee

2/28/2013, 5 p.m.

Riverside Foods, 2520 Wilson St., Two Rivers.

Special Guests - State Senator Joe Leibham, Wisconsin State Treasurer Kurt Schuller

Be a Host for \$1000, \$750, \$500, \$250. Maximum contribution is \$1000 per person

Come enjoy great appetizers and Wisconsin beverages

All contributions are welcome; PAC accepted

Make checks payable to: Taxpayers for Lasee, PO Box 5403, De Pere, WI 54115

Questions can be directed to Amyjoylasee@yahoo.com or [262-880-3316](tel:262-880-3316)

General attendees will be invited to participate at \$40 per person

Legislative Day is Fast Approaching – Mark Your Calendars for March 20, 2013

Plans are already underway for Legislative Day. It will be Wednesday, March 20th. We have already confirmed our use of the State Capitol and the Inn on the Park for parts of our program. One of our honorees will be Senator Frank Lasee, who will again chair the Senate Housing Committee. Mark your calendars now for that day.

As always, feel free to email me with questions or suggestions. Here is the information on how you can contact me:

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