

Vote Record

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations

Date: 3-21-00
Moved by: 710 Arb Seconded by: Wirth
AB: _____ Clearinghouse Rule: _____
AB: _____ SB: _____ Appointment: _____
AJR: _____ SJR: _____ Other: _____
A: _____ SR: _____

A/S Amdt: _____
A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____
A/S Sub Amdt: _____
A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____
A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____

- Be recommended for:
- Passage
 - Introduction
 - Adoption
 - Rejection
 - Indefinite Postponement
 - Tabling
 - Concurrence
 - Nonconcurrence
 - Confirmation

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Sen. Robert Wirth, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gwendolynne Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Richard Grobschmidt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gary Drzewiecki	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. David Zien	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: _____

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: _____
BILL NO. AB 710
OF _____
SUBJECT _____

Representative Kalsb
(NAME)

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O. Box 7862
Madison, WI 53707-7862

AB-710

**REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE CAROL KELSO, CHAIRPERSON,
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW RECODIFICATION,
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
HOUSING AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MARCH 21, 2000**

Good morning. I served as Chair of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on General Municipal Law Recodification. The Special Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee met 12 times to prepare the large bill draft that is before you today.

Many users of ch. 66, Stats., have commented on its length and lack of organization. In the Legislature, Representative Marc Duff became familiar with these problems and his interest served as the starting point for the Special Committee's task of recodifying and modernizing ch. 66.

The creation of ch. 66 originally was part of an ongoing effort by the Revisor of Statutes to revise and reorganize Wisconsin statutes relating to municipal law. First created in the 1921 Session of the Legislature, the purpose of ch. 66 was to locate in one chapter those statutory provisions applicable to more than one general purpose unit of local government. As originally established, ch. 66 consisted of 11

individual statutory sections comprising about 17 pages of the Wisconsin statutes. In the last 75 years, ch. 66 has grown to contain 270 individual sections, comprising 170 pages of the 1997 Wisconsin statutes. The chapter now includes many disparate statutory provisions, with no sense of internal organization. For these reasons, the chapter is very difficult to use.

Assembly Bill 710 reorganizes ch. 66 by creating 13 subchapters in logical groupings. The bill also divides and recombines particular provisions of ch. 66 in order to make logical presentations within single sections of the statutes. The reorganization is completed by relocating whole or partial provisions outside of ch. 66, where appropriate. For example, provisions dealing with metropolitan sewage districts are moved into ch. 200 and sections of ch. 66 pertaining solely to first class cities are moved to ch. 62 of the statutes, relating to cities.

The bulk of the bill consists of nonsubstantive, editorial changes that modernize language. In some instances, existing archaic language could only be modernized by entirely restating a provision. Also, the bill eliminates language the Special Committee believed to be archaic or no longer necessary. For example, statutory provisions

authorizing the municipal creation of fuel depots, ice plants and slaughterhouses are repealed.

In its direction to the Special Committee, the Joint Legislative Council asked that the Special Committee refrain from recommending substantive changes "significantly affecting relationships between governmental units or engendering substantial controversy in the legislative process." Consequently, Assembly Bill 710 makes substantive changes that the Special Committee concluded are relatively noncontroversial. For example, the appointment of a weed commissioner is made optional and towns are given the authority to regulate transient merchants when a superseding county ordinance does not exist.

While the bill is one of the larger bills to be presented to the Legislature, with the exception of budget bills, it is primarily a technical project that is designed to make ch. 66 more useful to those who refer to it. There are no intended surprises or hidden substantive changes. Substantive changes and repeals are expressly noted in explanatory notes in the bill and are summarized in the Report to the Legislature on the bill, which you have received.

The bill has an effective date of January 1, 2001 to roughly coincide with the next issue of the Wisconsin Statutes and to allow practitioners time to become aware of the project.

The bill was unanimously recommended for passage by the Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs and was passed by the Assembly on a voice vote.

In conclusion, I ask for your favorable recommendation on Assembly Bill 710. I would be glad to try to respond to any questions that you may have. In addition, Don Dyke and Ron Sklansky of the Legislative Council Staff, who worked with the Special Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee, are here today.

AB-710

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