

Assembly Bill 329 relating to: The frequency of local lodge meetings.

<p>BILL SPONSORS</p>	<p>Introduced by Montgomery, Van Roy, Wieckert, Jensen, Bies, J. Wood, M. Lehman, Weber, Towns, Schooff, Grothman, Ladwig, Cullen, Owens, Hines, McCormick, Plouff, Shilling, Gielow, Stone and Seratti; Cosponsored by Senators Schultz, Hansen and Breske.</p>
<p>BILL HISTORY</p>	<p>Assembly Bill 329 was introduced on 05-13-03 and referred to the Committee on Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions and Insurance. A public hearing and executive session were held on 06-29-03 The committee recommended AB 329 for passage on a vote. Ayes 5, Noes 0</p>
<p>LRB ANALYSIS</p>	<p>Current Law: Under current law a fraternal benefit society may provide insurance benefits to its members and employees. To be considered a fraternal benefit society, an organization must, among other requirements, have a lodge system, and the local lodges must meet at least monthly.</p> <p>Proposed Changes: This bill changes the frequency with which the local lodges must meet to at least once every three months.</p> <p>Major Impact: None noted</p>
<p>FISCAL EFFECT</p>	<p>The estimated fiscal effect : None</p>
<p>SUPPORT</p>	<p>The following person/people appeared in favor of this bill: Rep. Phil Montgomery, Madison, Brian Casey, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, Mary Downs, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, The following person/people registered in favor of this bill: Bill McClenahan, WI Fraternal Congress, Madison No one registered support for the bill with the State Ethics Board, who did not testify or register at the public hearing. No organization(s) registered their intention to lobby on AB 329.</p>
<p>OPPOSITION</p>	<p>No persons/people appeared in opposition to this bill: No person/people registered in opposition to this bill: No one registered in opposition for the bill with the State Ethics Board.</p>
<p>CONTACT</p>	<p>John O'Brien, Committee Clerk, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions and Insurance. (608) 266-0703</p>
<p>DATE</p>	<p>August 8, 2003</p>

ASSEMBLY BILL 329

An Act to amend 614.01 (1) (c) 3. of the statutes; relating to: the frequency of local lodge meetings.
2003

05-13-03. A. Introduced by Representatives Montgomery, Van Roy, Wieckert, Jensen, Bies, J. Wood, M. Lehman, Weber, Towns, Schooff, Grothman, Ladwig, Cullen, Owens, Hines, McCormick, Plouff, Shilling, Gielow, Stone and Seratti; cosponsored by Senators Schultz, Hansen and Breske.

- 05-13-03. A. Read first time and referred to committee on Insurance 204
- 06-05-03. A. Public hearing held.
- 06-12-03. A. Executive action taken.
- 06-17-03. A. Report passage recommended by committee on Insurance, Ayes 14, Noes 0
251
- 06-17-03. A. Referred to committee on Rules 251
- 06-19-03. A. Placed on calendar 6-23-2003 by committee on Rules.
- 06-24-03. A. Read a second time 278
- 06-24-03. A. Ordered to a third reading 279
- 06-24-03. A. Rules suspended 279
- 06-24-03. A. Read a third time and passed 279
- 06-24-03. A. Ordered immediately messaged 279
- 06-26-03. S. Received from Assembly 256
- 06-26-03. S. Read first time and referred to committee on Agriculture, Financial
Institutions and Insurance 257

Vote Record

Committee on Agriculture, Financial Institutions and Insurance

Date: 7/29/03

Bill Number: AB 329

Moved by: Hansen

Seconded by: Brown

Motion: _____

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Dale Schultz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Ronald Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Neal Kedzie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator David Hansen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Julie Lassa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: _____

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Please Vote for AB 329: Quarterly Fraternal Lodge Meetings

- Fraternal benefit societies – like Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Catholic Knights, Catholic Family Life Insurance, National Mutual Benefit, Equitable Reserve Association and Knights of Columbus – are financial services organizations with a unique and special focus: charitable giving. Building better communities through **volunteer action** is the "heart and soul" of fraternalism.
- Fraternals carry out their volunteer activity through 2,500 local lodges (or chapters) in Wisconsin. Through the lodges, the state's 740,000 fraternal members contributed more than 4.8 million volunteer hours worth more than \$76 million in 2002.
- State law requires local fraternal lodges to hold formal business meetings once a month. Unfortunately, these mandatory **monthly business meetings have become deterrents to volunteerism.** (Volunteer activities do not count as business meetings.)
- In today's world, with modern communications tools and busy lifestyles, volunteers are increasingly unwilling to dedicate time to formal business meetings. They'd rather be out doing good, instead of sitting around discussing treasurers' reports.
- AB 329 would modernize state statutes to require fraternal lodges to hold formal **business meetings on a quarterly basis, instead of monthly.**
- Passing this legislation will make it easier for fraternal volunteers to make a difference in their communities.
- This bill does not impact the Lions, Moose or similar organizations. They are not "fraternal benefit societies," and are not governed by the same statutes.
- AB 329 passed the Assembly on a voice vote. An identical bill, AB 869, also passed the Assembly on a voice vote at the end of session last year.

American Slovenian Catholic Union • Catholic Aid Association • Catholic Family Life Insurance • Catholic Knights • Catholic Order of Foresters • Croatian Catholic Union of USA • Croatian Fraternal Union of America • CSA Fraternal Life • Degree of Honor Protective Association • Employees' Mutual Benefit Association • Equitable Reserve Association • First Catholic Slovak Union of USA and Canada • Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh • Independent Order of Foresters • Knights of Columbus • Loyal Christian Benefit Association • Modern Woodmen of America • National Catholic Society of Foresters • National Mutual Benefit • Police and Firemen's Insurance Association • Polish National Union of America • Polish Roman Catholic Union of America • Royal Neighbors of America • Slovak Catholic Sokol • Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol of the USA • Slovene National Benefit Society • Sons of Norway • Thrivent Financial for Lutherans • Western Fraternal Life Association • William Penn Association • Woman's Life Insurance Society • Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society • Workmen's Benefit Fund

Fraternalism

Common Bond — Uncommon Opportunity