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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...  
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

**2007-08**

(session year)

**Senate**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Labor, Elections and Urban  
Affairs (SC-LEUA)**

**COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL**

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

\* Contents organized for archiving by: Mike Barman (LRB) (October/2010)





SB 135  
?

To: Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs

From: Curt Witynski, Assistant Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Date: April 18, 2007

**Re: Opposition to AB 255, DOA Review of Proposed Annexations**

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities opposes AB 255, extending the department of administration's advisory review of annexations statewide and creating a new factor for the department to consider in its review of large annexations. Under current law, DOA reviews annexations in the 27 counties with populations over 50,000. This bill makes all annexations statewide subject to DOA advisory review. It also requires DOA to consider, as part of its public interest review of annexations over 20 acres in size, the annexing city's or village's estimate of the annexation's ultimate impact on the tax base of, and on real property taxes levied in, the annexing city or village and in the territory proposed to be annexed. The bill requires the annexing municipality to furnish the tax impact estimate to the department within 5 days after receiving the department's request and to publish a notice summarizing the estimate before enacting the annexation ordinance.

The League has consistently opposed extending DOA's role in the annexation process. We believe that annexation decisions, like other land use decisions, are best made at the local level without state interference. In our view, municipal governing bodies and their staff are best able to determine whether a particular annexation is in the public interest.

Requiring DOA review of all annexations statewide would create another potential hurdle in the annexation process. The bill increases municipal costs and staff workload and adds delays to the annexation process, especially in nonpopulous counties. Also, to be frank, we fear that the next change sought by the towns will be to prohibit annexations from proceeding if DOA finds them to be against the public interest.

We urge you to vote against recommending passage of AB 255. Thanks for considering our comments.

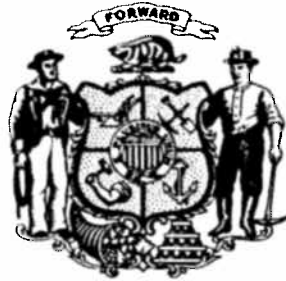


State of Wisconsin  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Co-Chairs

FRED A. RISSER  
President, State Senate

STEVE WIECKERT  
Representative, State Assembly



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF

Terry C. Anderson

Director

Laura D. Rose

Deputy Director

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, ELECTIONS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

FROM: Terry C. Anderson, Director *TCA*

RE: Hearing on 2007 Senate Bills 134 and 135

DATE: May 7, 2007 *↗*

Enclosed, for your information, is a copy of Wisconsin Legislative Council Report to the Legislature, RL 2007-10, dated April 11, 2007.

The following recommendations of the Special Committee on Municipal Annexation have been referred to your committee:

- **2007 Senate Bill 134**, relating to municipal boundary agreements and the use of alternative dispute resolution in municipal boundary disputes.
- **2007 Senate Bill 135**, relating to Department of Administration advisory review of certain annexations.

Senate Bills 134 and 135 are scheduled to be considered by your committee at its meeting which will be held on **Tuesday, May 15, 2007, beginning at 2:00 p.m., in Room 330 Southwest, State Capitol.**

If you have any questions relating to the above report or bills, please feel free to contact Don Dyke, Chief of Legal Services, at 266-0292.

TCA:wu  
Enclosure



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
MUNICIPAL ANNEXATION

[2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 254 AND 2007 SENATE BILL 134; AND  
2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 255 AND 2007 SENATE BILL 135]

(REINTRODUCTION)

April 11, 2007

RL 2007-10

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# Special Committee on Municipal Annexation

Prepared by:  
Don Dyke, Chief of Legal Services\*  
April 11, 2007

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\*Mary Offerdahl, a former Staff Attorney with the Legislative Council staff, contributed to the previous version of this report, RL 2005-13.



# PART I

## KEY PROVISIONS OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Joint Legislative Council has reintroduced\* the following legislation in the 2007-08 Legislative Session, based on recommendations of the 2004-05 Special Committee on Municipal Annexation.

[Note: Each proposal has been introduced in both houses of the Legislature as companion bills. For simplicity, this report refers to the companion bills as "the bill."]

### **2007 Assembly Bill 254 and 2007 Senate Bill 134, Relating to Municipal Boundary Agreements and the Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Municipal Boundary Disputes**

The bill does the following:

- Simplifies the current plan requirements for boundary agreements by a cooperative plan (s. 66.0307, Stats.) and reduces the minimum time period for developing a cooperative plan.
- Provides a procedure for a municipality to petition for development of a cooperative plan through mediation if an adjacent municipality declines to participate in the current procedure to develop a cooperative plan.
- Establishes a specific procedure for common municipal boundaries to be determined by agreement under s. 66.0301, Stats. (the general intergovernmental agreement statute).
- Limits the application of s. 66.0225, Stats. (boundaries fixed by court judgment) to contested annexations and limits the scope of a boundary determination under that procedure to that portion of the boundary "that is the subject of the annexation."
- Encourages the court and the parties to a contested annexation proceeding to consider the applicability of the current alternative dispute resolution (ADR) statute, s. 802.12, Stats.
- Requires the DOA to make available on its public website a list of persons who have identified themselves as professionals qualified to facilitate ADR of annexation, boundary, and land use disputes.

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\* The Joint Legislative Council introduced the Special Committee's recommendations in the 2005-06 Legislative Session as 2005 Senate Bills 460 and 461. The Senate Committee on Veterans Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform recommended passage of both proposals (relatively late in the session) by a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0. Senate Bill 461 (annexation advisory review by Department of Administration) passed the Senate by a vote of Ayes, 33; Noes, 0, but was not considered by the Assembly. Senate Bill 460 was not scheduled for consideration by the Senate.

## **2007 Assembly Bill 255 and 2007 Senate Bill 135, Relating to Department of Administration Advisory Review of Certain Annexations**

The bill extends the Department of Administration (DOA) advisory review of annexations commenced under s. 66.0217, Stats. (annexations initiated by electors and property owners) to include such annexations commenced in any county, not only those commenced in counties with a population of 50,000 or more. In addition, for annexations of more than 20 acres, the bill requires the DOA in making its advisory public interest determination to consider the impact of the annexation on the tax base and property taxes.

## PART II

### COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

#### Assignment

The Joint Legislative Council established the Special Committee on Municipal Annexation by a May 21, 2004 mail ballot. The committee was directed to review conflicts that arise under current annexation law and practice and the consequences of those conflicts, including costs to taxpayers and other affected parties, and to determine if there is consensus on means to reduce annexation disputes and encourage more boundary cooperation between towns and cities or villages, and to make related recommendations.

The membership of the Special Committee, appointed by a July 21, 2004 mail ballot, consisted of three Senators\*, four Representatives, and seven public members. A list of committee members is included as *Appendix 3* to this report.

#### Summary of Meetings

The *Special Committee* held three meetings at the State Capitol in Madison on the following dates:

October 12, 2004  
November 18, 2004  
May 24, 2005

October 12, 2004: At its first meeting, the Special Committee heard testimony on suggestions for revising annexation-related statutes, and on how to reduce conflicts and costs experienced in annexation proceedings. The hearing included testimony from representatives of the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities, Inc., and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, as well as from property owners and an attorney emphasizing the need to take into account the interests of property owners in studying annexation.

The committee concluded by discussing its assignment and possible areas for recommendations. Possibilities identified included revisions to current boundary agreement procedures and expanded use of ADR.

November 18, 2004: At its second meeting, committee staff briefly described Memo Nos. 1 and 2, relating to municipal boundary agreement procedures, and Memo No. 4, relating to ADR.

Representative Gottlieb then gave an overview of his proposals outlined in Memo No. 3, most of which relate to municipal boundary agreement procedures, linking them to ADR and annexation law. He stated his goals as facilitating cooperation and minimizing disputes, encouraging municipalities to enter into cooperative agreements rather than litigation, and making it easier to resolve disputes when they occur.

The committee discussed proposals to be prepared as draft legislation for further review. Chair Lasee then appointed a subcommittee to work on draft legislation for committee consideration, based on the day's discussion. Members of the subcommittee were Representative Gottlieb, Mr. Clark, Mr. Derr, Mr. Kraft, and Mr. Mooney.

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\* Senator Coggs later resigned from the committee.

May 24, 2005: At its final meeting, the committee considered the draft legislation developed by the Drafting Subcommittee. Following its review and discussion, the committee voted to recommend WLC: 0132/1, relating to municipal boundary agreements and the use of ADR in municipal boundary disputes, without amendment.

As part of the committee's consideration of WLC: 0067/1, relating to DOA advisory review of certain annexations, the committee considered an amendment offered by Chair Lasee. The amendment would require the DOA, as part of its advisory public interest review of certain annexations, to consider the effect of the annexation on the tax base and real property taxes in the existing city or village and in the territory to be annexed. After revising the amendment, the committee voted to adopt the amendment and to recommend WLC: 0067/1, as amended.

During this meeting, Chair Lasee thanked members of the committee for their work and diligence and gave special recognition to members of the Drafting Subcommittee.

The ***Drafting Subcommittee*** held three meetings at the State Capitol in Madison on the following dates:

December 9, 2004  
January 19, 2005  
February 4, 2005

December 9, 2004, January 19, 2005, and February 4, 2005: The subcommittee developed draft language providing for various statutory alternatives for municipalities to reach a boundary agreement, in an attempt to minimize litigation and disputes, as follows:

- A boundary agreement procedure in the context of a contested boundary action in court under s. 66.0225, Stats.
- A mediated boundary agreement procedure in the context of a longer-term DOA-approved cooperative plan under s. 66.0307, Stats.
- A boundary agreement procedure in the context of shorter-term intergovernmental cooperation under s. 66.0301, Stats.

In addition, with one member dissenting, the subcommittee developed draft legislation providing for an expansion of DOA's advisory review authority concerning proposed annexations.

## PART III

# RECOMMENDATIONS INTRODUCED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

This part of the report provides a description of the bills as recommended by the Special Committee on Municipal Annexation.

[Note: Each proposal has been introduced in both houses of the Legislature as companion bills. For simplicity, this report refers to the companion bills as "the bill."]

### **2007 Assembly Bill 254 and 2007 Senate Bill 134**

The bill addresses: (1) the determination of common municipal (city, village, and town) boundaries by agreement; and (2) the use of ADR in annexation and other boundary disputes. General provisions of the bill are summarized below. For additional information, see the text of the bill and notes following individual provisions of the bill.

#### **I. Boundary Agreements**

##### *A. Boundary Agreements by Cooperative Plan (s. 66.0307, Stats.)*

###### **1. Simplifying Current Procedure**

The bill simplifies the current planning requirements under s. 66.0307, Stats., for boundary agreements by cooperative plan by substituting for the current detailed planning requirements a general requirement for consistency with a comprehensive plan. The current requirements specify the content of a cooperative plan as the plan relates to the physical development of territory covered by the plan. "Comprehensive plan" is defined by the bill as a comprehensive plan adopted under s. 66.1001, Stats., or, if a municipality has not adopted a plan under that section, the municipality's master plan.

The bill also reduces, from 120 to 60, the minimum number of days that must pass following the last authorizing resolution by a participating municipality, before the required public hearing on the proposed cooperative plan may be held.

###### **2. Mediated Agreement Procedure**

The bill creates a mediated agreement procedure under the boundary agreement-by-cooperative plan statute that provides a means for one municipality to bring an adjacent municipality "to the table" in connection with a common boundary and related issues.

A municipality may petition the DOA for mediation of a cooperative plan if the petitioning municipality has: (a) adopted a comprehensive plan and a resolution authorizing participation in the preparation of a cooperative plan; and (b) requested the adjacent municipality to adopt an authorizing resolution for a cooperative plan, which request was not honored within 60 days after the request.

The bill establishes time periods for petitioning the DOA for the mediated agreement procedure and for the nonpetitioning municipality to respond to the invitation to mediate. It also provides that if the nonpetitioning municipality refuses to engage in mediation, the petitioning municipality may not submit another petition for mediation involving the same municipality for a period of three years after notice of refusal.

Incentives to agree to engage in mediation are included in the bill:

a. If a town refuses to engage in mediation, the town may not contest any annexation of its territory to the petitioning city or village that is commenced during the shorter of the following periods: (1) the period of 270 days beginning after the town refuses to engage in mediation; or (2) the period beginning after the town refuses to engage in mediation until the town agrees to engage in mediation (the latter assumes that the town may agree to engage in mediation after first refusing).

b. If a city or village refuses to engage in mediation, an annexation of territory of the petitioning town to the nonpetitioning city or village may be contested by the town if the DOA determines that the annexation is not in the public interest and if the annexation is commenced during the shorter of the following periods: (1) the period of 270 days beginning after the city or village refuses to engage in mediation; or (2) the period beginning after the city or village refuses to engage in mediation until the city or village agrees to engage in mediation (the latter assumes that the city or village may agree to engage in mediation after first refusing).

The bill provides for selection of a mediator, states the general role of the mediator, establishes a mediation period, and apportions the cost of mediation.

Subject to specified differences, a cooperative plan developed under the new procedure is subject to the content, procedure, approval, and other requirements under s. 66.0307.

Once the mediated agreement procedure is invoked by a municipality, any contested annexation commenced within the next three years involving the petitioning and nonpetitioning municipality is subject to a requirement that the judge, unless the nonpetitioning municipality objects, order the parties to select a settlement alternative under the current ADR statute. This provision is not intended to affect the court's discretionary authority under s. 802.12 to order the parties to attempt settlement by ADR, notwithstanding the objection of the nonpetitioning (or petitioning) municipality.

*B. Boundary Agreements Under General Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority (s. 66.0301, Stats.)*

The bill establishes a specific procedure for common municipal boundaries to be determined by agreement under s. 66.0301, Stats., the general intergovernmental cooperation statute. In addition to determining common boundaries, an agreement under the procedure may include any other provisions municipalities are authorized to agree to under s. 66.0301 and under s. 66.0305, Stats. (agreements to share revenues). It is envisioned that this authority will be used, for example, by municipalities that wish to make minor changes in their common boundaries or by municipalities that wish to enter into an initial, shorter term agreement before developing a cooperative plan under s. 66.0307.

Currently, there is no express authority under s. 66.0301 to enter into boundary agreements and, although the section has been used for such agreements, its use in this regard has been questioned by some. For example, at least one circuit court has held that boundary agreements are not authorized under current s. 66.0301. (The bill provides that agreements previously entered into under s. 66.0301 that affected the location of a boundary between municipalities are not invalid insofar as lacking authority under s. 66.0301 to affect the location of the boundary.)

Once an agreement under the new authority expires, all provisions of the agreement expire with the exception of boundary determinations, which remain until subsequently changed. The maximum term of an agreement is 10 years. When it is desirable to have an agreement of longer duration, s. 66.0307 is available (and, presumably, another agreement under s. 66.0301 could be entered into).

The s. 66.0301 boundary agreement procedure includes: a public hearing on the proposed agreement (including individual notice to specified affected property owners); approval by the governing body of each municipality by adoption of a resolution; and an optional referendum of the electors residing within the territory whose jurisdiction is subject to change as a result of the agreement.

A boundary agreement under s. 66.0301 may provide generally that during the term of the agreement, no other procedure for altering municipal boundaries may be used to alter a boundary that is affected by the agreement.

The bill provides filing and recording requirements for boundary changes pursuant to an agreement under the new procedure and provides a statute of limitations for contesting the validity of such an agreement.

#### *C. Stipulated Boundary Agreements in Contested Boundary Actions (s. 66.0225, Stats.)*

The bill limits the application of current s. 66.0225, Stats. (boundaries fixed by court judgment) to contested annexations and limits the scope of a boundary determination under that procedure to that portion of the boundary "that is the subject of the annexation." The limitations are intended to discourage use of s. 66.0225 for boundary agreements that are more appropriately developed under s. 66.0301 (6), as created by the bill, or s. 66.0307, as revised by the bill. Retention of the s. 66.0225 procedure for contested annexations, subject to the new limitation on which boundaries may be included, recognizes the history and utility of this provision in settling annexation litigation.

The bill provides that in contested consolidations, detachments, and incorporations, the action may be settled by entering into an agreement under the new s. 66.0301 procedure or under s. 66.0307 (boundary agreements by a cooperative plan). Contested annexations may also be so settled.

## **II. Alternative Dispute Resolution**

The bill expressly provides, for illustrative purposes, that the court and parties to a contested annexation are encouraged to consider the applicability of current ADR statute provision, s. 802.12, Stats.

The bill requires the DOA to make available on its public website a list of persons who have identified themselves as professionals qualified to facilitate ADR of annexation, boundary, and land use disputes.

## **2007 Assembly Bill 255 and 2007 Senate Bill 135**

The bill extends the DOA advisory review of annexations under s. 66.0217, Stats., to include counties with a population of under 50,000. The current 50,000 population threshold limits the DOA advisory review to 28 counties. The DOA advisory review consists of a statutorily prescribed public interest determination, based: (1) on whether the governmental services to be supplied to the territory to be annexed could clearly be better supplied by the town or by another willing and contiguous city or village; and (2) on the shape of the proposed annexation and the homogeneity of the territory with the annexing village or city and any other contiguous village or city. In practice, the advisory review also consists of a less formal "technical review" of proposed annexations by DOA staff, including accuracy of legal descriptions and maps. The annexing city or village is required to review DOA's advisory determination before final action is taken on the annexation.

The bill also creates a new factor for the DOA to consider in making its advisory public interest determination for annexations commenced under s. 66.0217, Stats., that will annex more than 20 acres. Under the amendment, in addition to the two factors the department is to consider under current law, the department would be required to consider the annexing city's or village's estimate of the annexation's ultimate impact on the tax base of and on taxes levied on real property in, the annexing municipality and in the territory proposed to be annexed. "Ultimate impact" refers to the impact at the time when the area is built-out and all resulting real property taxes generated go to all taxing jurisdictions. For purposes of the estimate, the annexing city or village is to assume that undeveloped land in the territory proposed to be annexed will be developed in accordance with the master plan or comprehensive plan in effect at the time of the annexation. The annexing municipality is required to

furnish the estimate to the department within five days after receiving the department's request and to publish a notice summarizing the estimate before adopting the annexation ordinance.



## Appendix 1

### Committee and Joint Legislative Council Votes

This Appendix identifies the votes by the Special Committee on Municipal Annexation and the Joint Legislative Council on the proposals that were approved by the Special Committee for recommendation to the Joint Legislative Council for introduction in the 2005-06 Session of the Legislature:

#### Special Committee Votes

At its May 24, 2005 meeting, the Special Committee voted as follows on its recommendations:

- WLC: 0132/1, relating to municipal boundary agreements and the use of alternative dispute resolution in municipal boundary disputes, was recommended by a vote of Ayes, 9 (Sens. Lasee and Brown; Reps. Gottlieb and Kerkman; and Public Members Clark, Derr, Kraft, Mooney, and Parmentier); Noes, 1 (Rep. Zepnick); and Absent, 3 (Rep. Kaufert and Public Members Jones and Kaster). Representative Kaufert would have voted in the affirmative had he been able to attend.
- WLC: 0067/2, relating to Department of Administration advisory review of certain annexations, was recommended by a vote of Ayes, 9 (Sens. Lasee and Brown; Reps. Gottlieb, Kerkman, and Zepnick; and Public Members Clark, Derr, Mooney, and Parmentier); Noes, 1 (Public Member Kraft); and Absent, 3 (Rep. Kaufert and Public Members Jones and Kaster). Representative Kaufert would have voted in the affirmative had he been able to attend.

#### Joint Legislative Council Votes

At its June 1, 2005 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council voted as follows on the recommendations of the Special Committee:

- *Introduction by the Joint Legislative Council of WLC: 0132/1 and WLC: 0067/2 passed by a vote of Ayes, 17 (Sens. Lasee, Brown, Decker, Fitzgerald, Kapanke, Miller, Robson and Schultz; and Reps. Wieckert, Ainsworth, Freese, Huebsch, Kaufert, Kreuser, Nischke, Pocan, and Schneider); Noes, 0; and Excused, 5 (Sens. Grothman, Risser and Zien; and Reps. Gard and Travis).*

The proposals that the Joint Legislative Council voted to introduce were subsequently introduced as 2005 Senate Bill 460 and 2005 Senate Bill 461.

At its March 14, 2007 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council voted as follows to reintroduce 2005 Senate Bills 460 and 461 (in both houses):

- *Rep. Gottlieb moved, seconded by Rep. Wieckert, that the two drafts recommended by the Special Committee on Municipal Annexation be voted on en masse and introduced as companion bills into the Legislature. The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes, 16 (Reps. Wieckert, Ballweg, Berceau, Fitzgerald, Gottlieb, Rhoades, and Schneider; and Sens. Risser, Carpenter, Coggs, Darling, Fitzgerald, Harsdorf, Lasee, Miller, and Robson); Noes, 0; and Absent, 6 (Reps. Huebsch, Kaufert, Kreuser, and Pocan; and Sens. Breske and Decker).*

*[Rep. Kaufert and Sen. Decker would have voted Aye had they been present.]*

The proposals were reintroduced as 2007 Assembly Bills 254 and 255 and 2007 Senate Bills 134 and 135.

## Appendix 2

### Joint Legislative Council

*[Joint Legislative Council Members Who Selected and Appointed Committee and Its Membership]*

#### Co-Chair

**ALAN LASEE**  
*Senate President*  
2259 Lasee Road  
De Pere, WI 54115

#### Co-Chair

**STEVE WIECKERT**  
*Representative*  
1702 S. Irma Street  
Appleton, WI 54915

#### SENATORS

**RONALD W. BROWN**  
1112 Violet Avenue  
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**MICHAEL G. ELLIS**  
1752 County Road GG  
Neenah, WI 54956

**MARY E. PANZER**  
*Majority Leader*  
635 Tamarack Drive West  
West Bend, WI 53095

**G. SPENCER COGGS**  
3732 North 40th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53216

**JON ERPENBACH**  
*Minority Leader*  
2385 Branch St.  
Middleton, WI 53562

**FRED A. RISSER**  
5008 Risser Road  
Madison, WI 53705

**ALBERTA DARLING**  
1325 West Dean Road  
River Hills, WI 53217

**SHEILA HARSDORF**  
N6627 County Road E  
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**ROBERT WELCH**  
*President Pro Tempore*  
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Redgranite, WI 54970

**RUSSELL DECKER**  
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Schofield, WI 54476

#### REPRESENTATIVES

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*Majority Leader*  
351 Lisbon Road  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

**JIM KREUSER**  
*Minority Leader*  
3505 14th Place  
Kenosha, WI 53144

**DAN SCHOOFF**  
1955 Pebble Drive  
Beloit, WI 53511

**STEPHEN J. FREESE**  
*Speaker Pro Tempore*  
310 East North Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533

**MICHAEL LEHMAN**  
1317 Honeysuckle Road  
Hartford, WI 53027

**JOHN TOWNSEND**  
297 Roosevelt Street  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

**JOHN GARD**  
*Speaker*  
481 Aubin Street, P.O. Box 119  
Peshtigo, WI 54157

**MARLIN D. SCHNEIDER**  
3820 Southbrook Lane  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

**DAVID TRAVIS**  
5440 Willow Road  
Waunakee, WI 53597

**DEAN KAUFERT**  
1360 Alpine Lane  
Neenah, WI 54956

This 22-member committee consists of the majority and minority party leadership of both houses of the Legislature, the co-chairs and ranking minority members of the Joint Committee on Finance, and 5 Senators and 5 Representatives appointed as are members of standing committees. [s. 13.81, Stats.]

## Joint Legislative Council

[Current Joint Legislative Council Members Receiving Committee Report]

### Co-Chair

**ALAN LASEE**  
*Senate President*  
2259 Lasee Road  
De Pere, WI 54115

### Co-Chair

**STEVE WIECKERT**  
*Representative*  
1 Weatherstone Drive  
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### SENATORS

**RONALD W. BROWN**  
1112 Violet Avenue  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

**DAN KAPANKE**  
1610 Lakeshore Drive  
La Crosse, WI 54603

**DALE SCHULTZ**  
*Majority Leader*  
515 N. Central Avenue  
Richland Center, WI 53581

**RUSSELL DECKER**  
6803 Lora Lee Lane  
Schofield, WI 54476

**MARK MILLER**  
4903 Roigan Terrace  
Monona, WI 53716

**DAVID ZIEN**  
*President Pro Tempore*  
1716 63<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

**SCOTT FITZGERALD**  
N4692 Maple Road  
Juneau, WI 53039

**FRED A. RISSER**  
5008 Risser Road  
Madison, WI 53705

**GLENN GROTHMAN**  
111 South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
West Bend, WI 53095

**JUDY ROBSON**  
*Minority Leader*  
2411 E. Ridge Road  
Beloit, WI 53511

### REPRESENTATIVES

**JOHN AINSWORTH**  
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Shawano, WI 54166

**DEAN KAUFERT**  
1360 Alpine Lane  
Neenah, WI 54956

**MARLIN D. SCHNEIDER**  
3820 Southbrook Lane  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

**STEPHEN J. FREESE**  
*Speaker Pro Tempore*  
310 East North Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533

**JIM KREUSER**  
*Minority Leader*  
3505 14th Place  
Kenosha, WI 53144

**DAVID TRAVIS**  
5440 Willow Road  
Waunakee, WI 53597

**JOHN GARD**  
*Speaker*  
481 Aubin Street, P.O. Box 119  
Peshtigo, WI 54157

**ANN NISCHKE**  
202 W. College Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53186

**MICHAEL HUEBSCH**  
*Majority Leader*  
419 West Franklin  
West Salem, WI 54669

**MARK POCAN**  
309 North Baldwin St.  
Madison, WI 53703

This 22-member committee consists of the majority and minority party leadership of both houses of the Legislature, the co-chairs and ranking minority members of the Joint Committee on Finance, and 5 Senators and 5 Representatives appointed as are members of standing committees. [s. 13.81, Stats.]

## Appendix 3

### MUNICIPAL ANNEXATION

Senator Alan J. Lasee, **Chair**  
2259 Lasee Road  
De Pere, WI 54115

Representative Mark Gottlieb  
1205 Noridge Trail  
Port Washington, WI 53074

Representative Samantha Kerkman  
8705 385th Avenue  
Burlington, WI 53105

Roger W. Clark  
Herrling, Clark, Hartzheim, Sidall, Ltd.  
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Appleton, WI 54914-3017

Christine Jones  
Town of Linn  
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Warren P. Kraft  
City of Oshkosh  
215 Church Avenue  
Oshkosh, WI 54903-1130

Mike Parmentier  
100 North Jefferson Street, Room 608  
Green Bay, WI 54301-5026

Senator Ronald W. Brown  
1112 Violet Avenue  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Representative Dean R. Kaufert  
1360 Alpine Lane  
Neenah, WI 54956

Representative Josh Zepnick  
3173 South 49th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53219

Gerald Derr  
Town of Bristol  
1595 County Road V  
Columbus, WI 53925-9121

Pat Kaster  
River City Realtors  
1317 Lombardi Access Road  
Green Bay, WI 54304

J. Michael Mooney  
NAI MLG Commercial  
Brown County Planning Commission  
13400 Bishops Lane, Suite 100  
Brookfield, WI 53005-6237

**STUDY ASSIGNMENT:** The committee is directed to review conflicts that arise under current annexation law and practice and the consequences of those conflicts, including costs to taxpayers and other affected parties, and to determine if there is consensus on means to reduce annexation disputes and encourage more boundary cooperation between towns and cities or villages, and to make related recommendations

**13 MEMBERS:** 2 Senators, 4 Representatives, and 7 Public Members.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF:** Don Dyke, Chief of Legal Services, Mary Offerdahl,\* Staff Attorney, and Rachel Veum,\* Support Staff.

\* Ms. Offerdahl and Ms. Veum terminated their employment with the Legislative Council staff in 2006.

## Appendix 4

### Committee Materials List

(Copies of documents are available at [www.legis.state.wi.us/lc](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc))

#### May 24, 2005 Meeting

- WLC: 0132/1 (municipal boundary agreements and the use of alternative dispute resolution in municipal boundary disputes)
- WLC: 0067/1 (Department of Administration advisory review of certain annexations)
- WLC: 0217/1 (amendment to WLC: 0067/1)
- Fiscal Estimate, Initial Estimate to WLC: 0132/1, prepared by DOA
- Fiscal Estimate, Initial Estimate to WLC: 0067/1, prepared by DOA
- Handout, Key Annexation Factors\*, prepared by J. Michael Mooney
- Memo, Comments on Legislative Proposals Recommended by the Drafting Subcommittee, from Curt Witynski, Assistant Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities (5-24-05)

#### February 4, 2005 Drafting Subcommittee Meeting

- WLC: 0063/P3 (simplifying s. 66.0307, revising s. 66.0225, and authorizing certain boundary agreements under s. 66.0301)
- WLC: 0064/P3 (cooperative boundary plan by mediated agreement)
- WLC: 0063/P4 (simplifying s. 66.0307, revising s. 66.0225, and authorizing certain boundary agreements under s. 66.0301)
- WLC: 0064/P4 (cooperative boundary plan by mediated agreement)

#### January 19, 2005 Drafting Subcommittee Meeting

- WLC: 0063/P2 (simplifying s. 66.0307 and expanding the application of s. 66.0225)
- WLC: 0064/P2 (cooperative boundary plan by mediated agreement)
- WLC: 0068/P2 (DOA list of qualified ADR professionals)

#### December 9, 2004 Drafting Subcommittee Meeting

- WLC: 0063/P1 (simplifying s. 66.0307 and expanding the application of s. 66.0225)
- WLC: 0064/P1 (cooperative boundary plan by mediated agreement)
- WLC: 0066/P1 (application of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) to contested annexations)
- WLC: 0067/P1 (expanding DOA advisory review of annexations)
- WLC: 0068/P1 (DOA list of qualified ADR professionals)
- Memo. Preliminary Draft Legislation WLC: 0063/P1, from Brian W. Ohm, Chair, State-Local Government-Private Sector Working Group & Associate Professor, Department of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension (12-9-04)

## **November 18, 2004 Meeting**

- Memo No. 1, Current Boundary Agreement Procedures and Suggested Revisions (11-9-04)
- Summary Comparison
- Flowchart
- Memo No. 2, Additional Background Information on Cooperative Boundary Agreements (11-9-04)
- Cooperative Boundary Agreement Checklist
- What's Unique About the Cooperative Boundary Agreement Statute
- Memo No. 3, Outline of Proposal by Representative Mark Gottlieb (11-9-04)
- Memo No. 4, Three Options for Expanding Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Annexation Procedures (11-9-04)
- Guide to Dispute Resolution Process
- Section 802.12, Stats.
- Algoma-Oshkosh Agreement
- Exhibit A
- Exhibit B
- Exhibit C
- Questions and Answers
- Algoma Cooperative Agreement Approval
- Handout, Proposed for Amendment 2003 Wis. Act 317, distributed by Public Member Roger Clark

## **October 12, 2004 Meeting and Public Hearing**

- Staff Brief 04-6, Municipal Annexation (10-4-04)
- Statutes, Wisconsin's Annexation Statutes, Division of Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Administration (2004)
- Meeting Notice
- Public Hearing Notice
- Testimony, Richard J. Stadelman, Executive Director, Wisconsin Towns Association
- Testimony, Edward Huck, Executive Director, Wisconsin Alliance of Cities Inc.
- Testimony, Curt Witynski, Assistant Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities
- Testimony, Richard J. Lukas
- Testimony, Beverly Lancaster and Marilyn Neumann
- Handout, Background on Annexation for the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Municipal Annexation, Department of Administration (10-04)
- Handout, Brian W. Ohm, Chair, State-Local Government-Private Sector Working Group & Associate Professor, Department of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension





**Plotkin, Adam**

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**From:** Curt Witynski [witynski@lwm-info.org]

**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2007 3:43 PM

**To:** Plotkin, Adam

**Attachments:** AB 254.doc; AB 255.doc

SB 135  
?

Hi Adam: I've attached the memos on the bills we discussed that I distributed to the Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs a few weeks ago. Let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

See you tomorrow.

\*\*\*\*\*

Curt Witynski  
Assistant Director  
League of Wisconsin Municipalities  
122 West Washington Ave.  
Madison, WI 53703

(608) 267-2380

To: Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs

From: Curt Witynski, Assistant Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Date: April 18, 2007

Re: **Support for AB 254, Municipal Boundary Agreements**

SB 134

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities supports AB 254, which is compromise legislation making it easier for municipalities and towns to enter into boundary agreements. The bill addresses: (1) the determination of common municipal boundaries by agreement; and (2) the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in annexation and other boundary disputes.

We appreciate Rep. Gottlieb's efforts last session at forging a compromise proposal that creates a process by which towns can petition a municipality to participate in mediation about boundary issues. Among other things, the bill:

- ❑ Simplifies the current cooperative boundary plan requirements of s. 66.0307, Stats., by substituting a general requirement for consistency with a comprehensive plan for the current detailed planning requirements. *(This is a League initiated change.)*
- ❑ Reduces from 120 to 60 the minimum number of days that must pass, following the last authorizing resolution by a participating municipality, before the public hearing on the proposed cooperative plan may be held. *(This is a League initiated change.)*
- ❑ Establishes a specific procedure for common municipal boundaries to be determined by agreement under s. 66.0301, Stats. In addition to determining common boundaries, an agreement under the procedure may include any other provisions municipalities are authorized to agree to under s. 66.0301 and under s. 66.0305, Stats., such as agreements to share revenues. Once an agreement expires, all provisions of the agreement expire with the exception of boundary determinations, which remain until subsequently changed. The maximum term of an agreement is 10 years. *(This is a League initiated change.)*

This is the type of compromise legislation that the legislature should advance rather than controversial and one-sided bills like the charter towns bill. We urge you to recommend passage of AB 254. Thanks for considering our comments.

To: Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs

From: Curt Witynski, Assistant Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Date: April 18, 2007

Re: **Opposition to AB 255, DOA Review of Proposed Annexations** — SB 135

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities opposes AB 255, extending the department of administration's advisory review of annexations statewide and creating a new factor for the department to consider in its review of large annexations. Under current law, DOA reviews annexations in the 27 counties with populations over 50,000. This bill makes all annexations statewide subject to DOA advisory review. It also requires DOA to consider, as part of its public interest review of annexations over 20 acres in size, the annexing city's or village's estimate of the annexation's ultimate impact on the tax base of, and on real property taxes levied in, the annexing city or village and in the territory proposed to be annexed. The bill requires the annexing municipality to furnish the tax impact estimate to the department within 5 days after receiving the department's request and to publish a notice summarizing the estimate before enacting the annexation ordinance.

The League has consistently opposed extending DOA's role in the annexation process. We believe that annexation decisions, like other land use decisions, are best made at the local level without state interference. In our view, municipal governing bodies and their staff are best able to determine whether a particular annexation is in the public interest.

Requiring DOA review of all annexations statewide would create another potential hurdle in the annexation process. The bill increases municipal costs and staff workload and adds delays to the annexation process, especially in nonpopulous counties. Also, to be frank, we fear that the next change sought by the towns will be to prohibit annexations from proceeding if DOA finds them to be against the public interest.

We urge you to vote against recommending passage of AB 255. Thanks for considering our comments.





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[www.lwm-info.org](http://www.lwm-info.org)

To: Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs  
From: Curt Witynski, Assistant Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities  
Date: May 15, 2007  
**Re: Opposition to SB 135, DOA Review of Proposed Annexations**

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities opposes SB 135, extending the department of administration's advisory review of annexations statewide and creating a new factor for the department to consider in its review of large annexations. Under current law, DOA conducts advisory public interest reviews of proposed annexations in the 27 counties with populations over 50,000. This bill makes all annexations statewide subject to DOA advisory review.

SB 135 also requires DOA to consider, as part of its public interest review of annexations over 20 acres in size, the annexing city's or village's estimate of the annexation's ultimate impact on the tax base of, and on real property taxes levied in, the annexing city or village and in the territory proposed to be annexed. The bill requires the annexing municipality to furnish the tax impact estimate to the department within 5 days after receiving the department's request and to publish a notice summarizing the estimate before enacting the annexation ordinance.

The League has consistently opposed extending DOA's role in the annexation process. We believe that annexation decisions, like other land use decisions, are best made at the local level without state interference. In our view, municipal governing bodies and their staff are best able to determine whether a particular annexation is in the public interest.

Requiring DOA review of all annexations statewide would create another potential hurdle in the annexation process. The bill increases municipal costs and staff workload and adds delays to the annexation process, especially in nonpopulous counties. Also, to be frank, we fear that the next change sought by the towns will be to prohibit annexations from proceeding if DOA finds them to be against the public interest.

We urge you to vote against recommending passage of SB 135. Thanks for considering our comments.



*This was not  
provided at the  
Assembly hearing*



# Memorandum

**Date:** May 15, 2007  
**To:** Senate Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs Committee  
**From:** John Kisiel –Wisconsin Builders Association  
**RE:** SB 135

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Wisconsin Builders Association and its 9,300 members are concerned by the content of this bill. While our members have been generally supportive of the Department of Administration's (DOA) review process for annexations, they have concerns regarding the potential delays that this additional oversight in all counties rather than in the current 28 counties may cause. In addition, our members are concerned about creating an additional factor for DOA to consider in reviewing annexations of over 20 acres which will require the annexing authority and all overlaying taxing jurisdictions to provide an estimate of the "ultimate impact" on both the annexed territory and the annexing authority. There is nothing presented in the bill's analysis that documents problems in the current process or defines the need for creating either of these two regulatory obstacles to that process.

WBA members generally oppose changes to law or administrative code that add unnecessary reviews, delays or regulatory burden to the review process. While we recognize that according to the legislation DOA is required to provide their opinion regarding the annexation within a defined time period, our members are concerned about creating an additional review step for what are in most cases unanimous annexations.

The creation of an additional factor for DOA to consider in making its advisory public interest determination for those annexations over 20 acres is also disconcerting to our members. While our members believe that transparency and full disclosure is something that government agencies should strive for, in this instance they see this as one more step in an otherwise long process. Our members are also concerned about asking the annexing municipality to look into its crystal ball to determine the "ultimate impact" of the annexation when it may not know such things as the density of development, the type of development or the timing of the future development that may occur. Our members believe that this requires the municipality to make too many assumptions that may not have a sound basis.

Absent any documentation that explains the necessity of creating these increased regulatory burdens our members cannot support this change in the law. Therefore, the Wisconsin Builders Association and its members from across Wisconsin respectfully oppose this legislation.







# MARK GOTTLIEB

Speaker Pro Tempore  
Wisconsin State Assembly

**Testimony by Rep. Mark Gottlieb  
Senate Bills 134 and 135  
Senate Committee on Labor, Elections & Urban Affairs  
May 15, 2007**

Senate Bills 134 and 135 were developed by the Legislative Council Special Study Committee on Municipal Annexation in 2004. I would like to describe the work of the committee and the resulting bills.

The principal goal of the committee was to reduce annexation disputes and the cost and delay that they can cause. The committee attempted to achieve this goal by encouraging the development of voluntary cooperative agreements between cities, villages, and towns.

Our review of current law found three specific statutes that are used for such agreements.

#### **66.0301 – Intergovernmental Cooperation**

Although this statute authorizes intergovernmental agreements, there is doubt that it gives authority to alter or protect boundaries. However, because of the complexity of the other boundary adjustment laws, it has been used for that purpose. SB 134 retroactively authorizes that practice, and specifies how the section may be used for future boundary agreements (and in doing so, provides another tool to address boundary disputes cooperatively).

#### **66.0225 – Boundaries Fixed by Court Judgment**

This statute allows communities in a lawsuit to stipulate their boundaries. Some evidence suggests that lawsuits have been commenced simply to allow this process to be used. To minimize this, SB 134 limits the application and scope of the section while specifying that boundaries in contested boundary actions, other than annexation, may be stipulated only pursuant to formal boundary agreement procedures.

#### **66.0307 – Cooperative Boundary Agreements**

This is the primary boundary agreement law. It has been criticized for being overly complex, costly, and time consuming. SB 134 considerably simplifies this process and reduces the time frame for approving the cooperative plan. The committee believes these changes will result in greater use of this process. SB 134 also provides a procedure for a municipality to petition for development of a cooperative plan through a mediated process if an adjacent municipality declines to participate in negotiations when first asked to do so.

The bill also requires DOA to make available on its public website a list of persons who have identified themselves as professionals qualified to facilitate alternative dispute resolution of annexation, boundary, and land use disputes.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

The second bill SB 135, extends the DOA advisory review of annexations initiated by electors and property owners to include those annexations commenced in any county, not only those commenced in counties with a population of 50,000 or more. Additionally, for annexations over 20 acres, it requires DOA, in making its advisory public interest determination, to consider the impact of the annexation on the tax base and property taxes of the annexing city or village.

While some may have hoped for more substantive changes to annexation law, the committee believes that the recommendations included in this bill can significantly reduce the number and cost of annexation disputes.

Last session Senate Bill 134, then SB 460, unanimously passed the Senate Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform committee but did not make it to the floor in time for a vote. SB 135 (SB 461 last session) passed the Senate 33-0 and was referred to the Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs.

Legislative Council staff is here to assist in answering any questions you may have. I hope you will give favorable consideration to these bills.