

👉 **07hr_ab0088_SC-TT_pt01**



Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 07/12/2010)

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

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Transportation and Tourism
(SC-TT)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... **RCP**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

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

WI Fire & EMS Legislative Leadership Coalition

April 23, 2007

Mary Williams, Representative
State Capitol, Room 17-West
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI. 53708

PROFESSIONAL
FIRE FIGHTERS OF
WI, INC.

Dear Representative Williams,

WI CHAPTER
INTERNATIONAL
ARSON
INVESTIGATORS
ASSOCIATION

On April 12, 2007, the Wisconsin Fire & EMS Legislative Leadership Coalition, a coalition made up of all fire and EMS representatives here in the great State of Wisconsin, met and unanimously support and endorse AB 88.

WI FIRE CHIEFS
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

The Wisconsin Fire and EMS Legislative Leadership Coalition feels this is an issue that is necessary and worthy to vigorously pursue.

WI FIRE
INSPECTORS
ASSOCIATION

We strongly encourage you and the rest of your distinguished colleagues to continue their support and to pursue this issue until it has become legislation.

WI SOCIETY OF
FIRE SERVICE
INSTRUCTORS


If you have any questions or concerns regarding this important issue, please feel free to contact any of the Coalitions organizations.

WI STATE FIRE
CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION

We look forward to working with you on this issue, along with many others, and we would like to thank you for your time, energy and efforts toward this important matter.

WI STATE
FIRE FIGHTERS
ASSOCIATION

Respectfully,

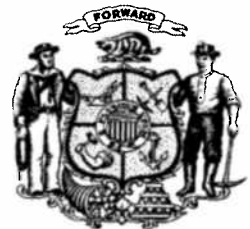

John C. Gee

WI EMS
ASSOCIATION

Wisconsin Fire & EMS Legislative Leadership Coalition



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



MARY WILLIAMS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 87TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Committees: Property Rights (Chair) • Tourism, Recreation and State Properties (Vice Chair) • Natural Resources • Agriculture Forestry • Rural Economic Development • Rules Committee



May 23, 2007

Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee, thank you for hearing AB 88. This bill will allow first responders to obtain special distinguishing license plates under the same statutory designation that EMTs currently have.

In my district, there are many rural communities that are miles away from EMTs or ambulances. Fortunately, we have first responders who are trained volunteers that often provide the services paid EMTs otherwise would provide. As their name suggests, first responders are often the first to arrive at the scene and provide life saving aid in the event of a car accident, fire, or home emergency. They must go through over 50 hours of classroom training and take practical and written tests to become certified by the State of Wisconsin. Some are even nationally registered to do their job anywhere in the U.S.

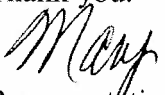
Unfortunately, confusion often arises when they show up at the accident scene with nothing to identify them other than clothing and an optional plastic border to attach to the front license plate. Constituents in my district who are first responders contacted me with the idea for this bill. They believe that a specialized license plate similar to the one EMTs or Fire fighters have would get rid of this unnecessary confusion and make first responders more visible.

Last session, I introduced a similar piece of legislation, AB 431, which created a new separate category for first responders. It required an appropriation from the transportation budget of \$11,800, and although it passed the Transportation Committee unanimously, the Joint Finance Committee 15-1, and the Assembly on a voice vote late last session, the Senate was not able to take it up before session ended.

When redrafting the bill this year, working with the DOT, we realized we could eliminate the need for a monetary appropriation by grouping first responders in with EMTs instead of creating an entirely new group for them. However, we wanted to make sure that EMTs would not feel like we were encroaching on their territory because EMTs and first responders are not entirely the same. We have spoken with the Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Association, who represent fire fighters, EMTs, and first responders, and they support this bill. DOT has agreed to work with the WI EMS Association when determining the logo and wording for the decals that go on the plate. It has been proposed to use the words, "Emergency Medical Technicians and First Responders," "Emergency Medical Service Providers," or something to that effect.

Those details do not need to be written into this bill. The bill is a simple, win-win bill that will allow first responders to obtain specialized license plates without increasing costs for the state of WI. It will reduce unnecessary confusion when first responders show up at the scene of an accident and make them more recognizable for the exceptional volunteer service they provide. I hope you will give it your support.

Thank you.


Representative Mary Williams