



# JIM OTT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 23<sup>rd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-0486  
District: (262) 240-0808  
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0023  
Rep.Ottj@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Good morning committee members. Thank you for hearing my testimony on Assembly Bill 555.

AB 555 was originally introduced as a law revision bill, to clarify a provision that was placed in the 2013-14 budget. The intention of the budget provision was to expand the opportunity for home schooled children to attend up to two classes at the K-8 grade level in a public school. Under prior law this opportunity was only afforded to students at the high school level.

Unfortunately, the way in which the provision was written in the budget and incorporated into the statutes left a certain amount of ambiguity and led to the possibility the provision could be misinterpreted. So AB 555 makes no substantive change to current law, only clarifies it. This is one of the criteria for a bill to be introduced as a law revision bill.

At the public hearing in Law Revision a representative from DPI testified that the Department is already using the statute as intended, in other words affording home schooled children at the K-8 level the opportunity to attend up to two classes in public schools, and did not object in any way to the budget provision.

The policy of the Law Revision Committee is to require a unanimous vote for approval of bills. One member of the committee objected to AB 555. Therefore, I am reintroducing the bill. I want to reiterate that this bill makes no changes to current law, only provides clarity. I would appreciate your support, look forward to your questions and will be glad to answer any questions.

To: Members, Assembly Committee on Judiciary

From: Jennifer Kammerud, Legislative Liaison, DPI *JK*

Date: December 19, 2013

**Re: 2013 Assembly Bill 555 - Standards for Admission in a Public School Course by a Home-Based Pupil**

This memo is meant to address changes being proposed in Assembly Bill 555 (AB 555) related to standards for admission in a public school course by a home-based pupil.

The department has no overriding concerns with AB 555. The bill appears to clarify that the school board of a district shall determine the minimum standards for admission to a course offered by the school district at each grade in grades Kindergarten through eight.