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January 28, 2013

Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations
Public Hearing
10:00 AM – 225 Northwest

Chairman Weininger and Members of the Committee:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of AB 589/SB 445. This legislation allows a local health department in a first class city (currently, this only applies to the city of Milwaukee) to issue a license to a retail food or a bed and breakfast establishment at any point during the year. This license expires one year from the day the license is issued.

AB 589/SB 445 helps to eliminate the bureaucracy associated with obtaining a license for a retail food or bed and breakfast establishment. Currently, the Department of Health Services issues these licenses. This legislation authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to enter into an agreement with the local health departments to allow these local departments to issue licenses.

This bill will eliminate the proverbial bureaucratic "red tape." Thank you for the time to discuss AB 589/SB 445. I am open to any questions the committee may have.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale P. Kooyenga". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Dale P. Kooyenga



State Senator
Rick Gudex

District 18

January 28, 2014

To: The Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations
From: Sen. Rick Gudex
Re: **Assembly Bill 589**

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing today and for allowing me to submit testimony.

Under current law, retail food establishment licenses expire on June 30 statewide, and are re-issued on July 1. As you can imagine, that's a lot of license applications all being processed at the same time. For most of the state, that's no problem. Local officials I spoke with in my own district tell me that having all those licenses come due at the same time makes it easier for them to plan their time.

Retail alcohol licenses are handled the same way. They all end on June 30, and are renewed on July 1, except in one place: the City of Milwaukee. In Milwaukee, retail alcohol licenses come due one year after the date they were issued, and they can be issued at any time.

For Milwaukee, it makes sense, and it would make sense for Milwaukee to handle retail food licenses the same way. That is why they asked for this legislation. Under this bill, Milwaukee will be able to issue a new retail food license at any time, and have it come up for renewal one year later, instead of on June 30. Because the licenses will be for one year at a time, this won't cut down on oversight, but it will make things a little easier for the city. I hope it will also make things a little easier for those businesses which need licenses for both alcohol and food sales.

This is a simple and bipartisan bill that will make a small but positive change in our state. I urge your support.



Department of Administration
Intergovernmental Relations Division

Tom Barrett
Mayor

Sharon Robinson
Director of Administration

Jennifer Gonda
Director of Intergovernmental Relations

**City of Milwaukee Testimony on AB 589 to Assembly Committee on State Affairs and
Government Operations-January 28, 2014**

Thank you to Chairman Weininger and to the committee for hearing AB 589 related to issuance by a first class city of a license for a retail food establishment and a permit for a restaurant or bed and breakfast establishment. Additionally, I'd like to thank Sen. Gudex and Rep. Kooyenga for authoring the bill on behalf of the City of Milwaukee.

This bill is about creating a more business friendly licensing procedure and streamlining our government administrative processes in issuing food related licenses. The City of Milwaukee has an agent agreement with both DATCP and DHS to administer the licensing and the inspection of all retail food, restaurants, and bed and breakfasts. Essentially, the City of Milwaukee performs all of the work in licensing and regulating these businesses. However, state law requires that these licenses expire on June 30th each year. We have over 3,500 food licenses in Milwaukee, so you can imagine the monumental task that is required to handle all of these renewals at the same time. We would prefer to have these renewals spread out throughout the year so the City is asking for state law to be changed to allow for these licenses to expire one year from the date of issuance rather than on June 30th.

The reason we are asking for this law change only for a first class city is because we already have a similar exception in state law for liquor licenses under Ch. 125.04(11)(b). Currently under state law, both food and liquor licenses expire statewide on June 30th each year except in Milwaukee where liquor licenses currently expire one year from the date of issuance. We are asking for this same exception for food licenses so that a business that has both types of licenses only has to come in once in a year to renew. All other municipalities are already able to do this because both licenses in other communities expire on June 30th. Obviously, due to the volume of these licenses in Milwaukee it would be nearly impossible for us to administer all of these renewals on June 30th.

Again, because the City has an agent agreement with DATCP and DHS, nothing will change for them. We will continue to provide them with the same information they currently receive and require of us in the same report format and timing. The only change will be for the business who will only have to come to the City once for both licenses and for the City who will administer the licenses over a 12 month cycle rather than a June 30th deadline. Another benefit is that, under this change, we will be able to conduct our inspections closer to the actual renewal date.

We see this bill as a win-win for food licensed businesses and for government efficiency in issuing these food licenses. We ask for your support of AB 589. Thank you.

For questions or for additional information please contact:

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