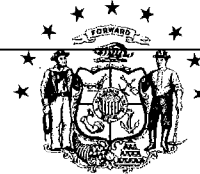




SONDY POPE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
80TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



January 30, 2018

Testimony on Assembly Bill 740

Thank you Chairperson Rodriguez and members of the Committee on Family Law for hearing Assembly Bill 740 (AB740) today.

Under current law, if a married individual owns a vehicle with only their name on the title, upon their death, the surviving spouse is still required to pay the certificate of title fee of \$62 in order to legally own or sell the vehicle. AB740 waives this requirement and eliminates the fee for the surviving spouse.

I introduced this bill not only on behalf of constituents, but also based on personal experiences. I first learned about this issue years ago. Before my husband passed away we owned a sole proprietor car repair business. Upon his death and the sale of the shop, we still owned a fleet of service vehicles. The loss of my husband was an extremely difficult time for our family and the regulatory obstacles in order to sell these vehicles was only added stress and expense. Since then, I've been approached by a number of constituents who feel that this fee is an undue burden to citizens who are already dealing with the death of a spouse and have assumed responsibility for those vehicles.

The emotional and financial burdens are often substantial in the event of a spouse's death. By passing this legislation we are showing that the State of Wisconsin is compassionate toward its citizens and that by removing regulatory financial burdens, we can completely eliminate the idea of the state nickel and diming widowed individuals, all at little cost to the state.

I thank you again for considering this bill and hope that you will support its passage in order to provide relief to our citizens during one of life's most difficult of times.



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

TESTIMONY ON ASSEMBLY BILL 740

Thank you Madam Chair for the hearing today on Assembly Bill 740. I am happy to join with Representative Pope on this bipartisan piece of legislation.

Under current law, when a spouse dies, the surviving spouse must pay \$62 to transfer a vehicle title into his or her name. The supplemental fee associated with title transfers of \$7.50 is waived. The bill waives vehicle title transfer fees, in addition to the supplemental fee, for transfers upon the death of a spouse.

As you know, the death of a spouse can have a dramatic emotional and mental toll on the surviving spouse. Most do not realize the many expenses that follow that death, which adds to the stress of situation. When a survivor decides he/she is ready to remove their spouse from the vehicle title, the potential cost should not be a factor in making that move. We can ease the grieving process, and possibly help bring about closure by eliminating a potential obstacle in the title transfer fee.

That's it. This is a simple and straightforward bill that help people through the grieving process. I urge your support.

Serving Racine and Kenosha Counties - Senate District 21

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 • (608) 266-1832 • Toll-free (866) 615-7510
Sen.Wanggaard@legis.wi.gov • SenatorWanggaard.com