

DAVE MURPHY

State Representative • 56th Assembly District

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Revenue and Financial Institutions

March 26, 2019

SB 43/AB 37

Mr. Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for Senate Bill 43, our Paddlewheel Raffles bill.

Wisconsin has many charitable organizations that support excellent causes while fostering community participation and good works. Most of us volunteer in these activities to help our communities. I am a long-time member of my local Lion's Club, for example, and I also volunteer at my church. This bill will help groups like the Lion's Club continue their generous and altruistic work without accidentally committing a crime.

Right now in our state, unless a game of chance with a prize is permitted in Wisconsin law, it is considered illegal gambling and is a felony. For example, last session the legislature passed a law to allow those plastic or rubber duck races at certain events where there is a drawing for a prize. If that type of game hadn't been made legal, charitable organizations holding a Class B raffle license could have faced a Class I Felony charge.

This bill allows another form of fundraising fun to be permitted: the paddlewheel raffle. The raffle still has requirements, and the organization must have a Class B raffle license. As long as the rules are followed, this type of raffle can be allowed.

Again, thank you for hearing this bill. I hope you'll join me in supporting this common sense legislation, Senate Bill 43.

Thank you.

To: Senator Jacques

Attn: Lance Burri

Re: Raffle Wheel Assembly Bill

From: Lee Lamers

6967 Hamilton Drive

Wabeno, Wi 54566

Home Phone:715-473-2633

Cell Phone: 920-602-0068

Date: March 23, 2019

I am writing this message in support of the Assembly Bill to legalize the raffle wheel for charitable and non-profit organizations. In my 43 years of involvement in these types of organizations, I have only seen positive results. There have been no negative consequences of this method of fund raiser.

People enjoy watching the raffle wheel spin resulting in greater participation and therefor greater profit for the cause. Participants feel good about making a positive impact in their communities. No other method has been as effective as the wheel. Other methods to raise funds have been tried and found to be more time consuming and not as effective resulting in volunteers losing motivation and people at the events losing interest without the visual component of watching the wheel. Generally, these organizations have only one fund raiser a year.

This bill is asking nothing more than to continue what has been a major method of supporting charitable and non-profit causes in our communities.



ANDRÉ JACQUE

STATE SENATOR • 1ST SENATE DISTRICT

Phone: (608) 266-3512

Fax: (608) 282-3541

Sen.Jacque@legis.wi.gov

State Capitol · P.O. Box 7882

Madison, WI 53707-7882

*Testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Revenue and Financial Institutions
State Senator André Jacque
March 26th, 2019*

Chairman Marklein and Colleagues on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Revenue and Financial Institutions,

Thank you for holding this hearing and the opportunity to testify before you today in support of Senate Bill 43. This common sense legislation will allow the popular use of paddlewheels for raffles across our state to continue without groups unknowingly and unintentionally committing a felony level offense.

Paddlewheel raffles are very popular amongst Wisconsin's many sportsmen's clubs, civic and veterans' organizations, and churches throughout the state. For example a frequently used variation is the "meat raffle," a crowd favorite seen at events from church festivals to VFW fish fries. However, groups who hold paddlewheel raffles at special events under their raffle license are being informed that they are fostering illegal gambling, and are subject to up to a Class I Felony penalty.

Thanks to previous legislation we've successfully passed to end the use of a similar loophole in state law to obstruct Wisconsin charitable organizations, a Class B raffle license may now be used to conduct a "multiple-container raffle." This allows for popular raffles such as plastic and rubber duck races at special events to lawfully be carried out as long as the winner in the raffle or race is determined by a "drawing" with all tickets having an "equal opportunity to win."

We are introducing SB 43 to provide similar relief for paddlewheel raffles by allowing an organization with a Class B raffle license to conduct such raffles without inadvertently committing a Class I Felony. Minnesota, where such games are also popular, has already legalized paddlewheel raffles for charitable groups.

Please join us in supporting this common sense fix to ensure popular meat raffles and other paddlewheel raffles at small festivals can continue to thrive. Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 43.