

STATE SENATOR KATHY BERNIER
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



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From: Senator Kathy Bernier
To: The Senate Committee on Elections, Ethics and Rural Issues
Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 606

Relating to: allowing a pupil enrolled in a home-based private educational program to serve as an election inspector.

Date: January 15, 2020

Members of the committee, thank you for hearing my testimony on Senate Bill 606 today. Representative James asked me to work with him on this bill to address a concern brought to him by a local resident about high school students serving as election inspectors.

Currently, students and public and private high schools are eligible to serve as election inspectors if they meet certain grade point requirements and get permission from their parent or guardian. If their grade point average is not above a 3.0, the school board or governing body of the school can establish criteria that would allow them to serve as an election inspector. This system works for most high school students that are interested in participating as an election inspector but there is no accommodation for non-traditional students that are home schooled. This bill would correct that oversight.

Senate Bill 606 would allow home schooled students who meet the grade point criteria and get permission from their parent or guardian to serve as an election inspector. If they do not have a 3.0 GPA, the administrator of their home school program can establish criteria for them to meet in order to participate as an election inspector. Senate Bill 606 takes the existing plan for high school students to be election inspectors and extends it to home school students with no changes to the existing criteria.

I hope you will join me and Representative James in supporting this simple change to allow all high school students who wish to participate in elections to do so. Municipalities across Wisconsin are constantly searching for election inspectors and this bill will provide a new source of manpower to ensure our elections are run as efficiently as possible. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JESSE JAMES

Chairman Bernier and committee members,

Thank you for hearing Senate Bill 606 today. Currently in Wisconsin, students who attend a public, private, or tribal school who are 16 or 17 years old and maintain a 3.0 average, or meet other requirements put together by the school, are able to be appointed to serve as election inspectors with permission from their parents and administrator from their respective school.

AB 606, would add homeschooled students to the list of students who are able to participate as an election inspector.

This bill is a simple fix to allow homeschooled students the same privileges as public, private and tribal students. At a time when there is a need for more election inspectors, it just makes sense to get more young people involved in the democratic process and allow homeschooled students to be election inspectors.

I want to thank Senator Bernier for working on this with me.