



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 812

Thank you committee members for today's hearing on Senate Bill 812, which defines and regulates "battery-powered, alarmed electronic security fences."

If you're like me a few months ago, right now you're wondering what a battery-powered alarmed, electronic security fence actually is. I don't blame you. Simplified, these fences are electric security fences within an outer fence that are able to signal law enforcement of an intrusion.

With the crime increasing across the state and law enforcement already overburdened, many people are seeking additional security for their businesses. Unfortunately, there is no state standard for a battery-powered alarmed, electronic security fence. As a result, local governments, businesses and fence suppliers are faced with a hodge podge of regulations across the state. This causes confusion.

To fit the new statewide definition the fence must:

- Be equipped to a battery supplying not more than 12 volts of power.
- Fits the International Electrotechnical Commission's definition of electric fence energizers
- Be connected to an alarm system that can contact law enforcement
- Contains a warning sign
- Is surrounded by a perimeter fence of wall at least 5 feet high
- Is no more than 10 feet high, or 2 feet higher than the perimeter fence

Because this bill creates a new statewide definition, and to prevent the hodge podge of regulations, the bill prohibits local governments from regulating these fences.

I'm sure there will be quite a few technical questions about battery-powered, alarmed electronic security fence. An expert in these fences will testify shortly and I would ask you defer your questions to him.

Thank you.

Serving Racine and Kenosha Counties - Senate District 21



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JESSE JAMES

January 20th, 2022

Testimony of Representative James in favor of SB 812

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and other committee members, for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 812. This bill will help those businesses, entities, and organizations who choose to protect their property by installing battery-powered, alarmed, electric security fences. This legislation will establish statewide standard, and regulation for the installation of these all-inclusive fence and alarm systems. The purpose of these systems is to deter those who might attempt to enter a property with the intent to commit a crime.

While working as a law enforcement officer, I heard about a recent incident at the Wisconsin Auto Auction, located in Lake Hallie on December 26, 2021. This business is actually in my district and was used as an example as to why this legislation was needed when we initially discussed this bill. I find it interesting we have this legislation pending and this crime happens right in my district.

Two officers responded to a call regarding suspicious subjects walking around the facility with flashlights. As they arrived on scene, an officer observed a burgundy Jeep leaving the parking lot. The officers conducted a routine traffic stop, and while doing so, the officers observed what appeared to be power tools commonly used to cut catalytic converters off out of cars on the floor of the front passenger's seat. A catalytic converter was found in the back seat, with what appeared to be fresh cut marks. They just stole the converter from the auto auction. As the search continued, additional stolen goods were discovered, as well as drug paraphernalia. What a bust, right?

Just yesterday, I talked to the Lake Hallie Police Department, Chief Ed Orgon, and he was excited to hear about this legislation. When I told him about it his reply was, "yes, yes, yes." This will help law enforcement, it will help businesses protect their property, and there will be safety standards for the electrified portion of the fence.

I honestly believe that, if the Wisconsin Auto Auction had an electrified fence installed, it would have prevented these two criminals from accomplishing what they set out to do. Let's make this process less of a headache. I ask for your support in moving this legislation forward, and thank you for your time.