



ROBERT BROOKS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Assembly Committee on Local Government
Wednesday, March 8, 2017

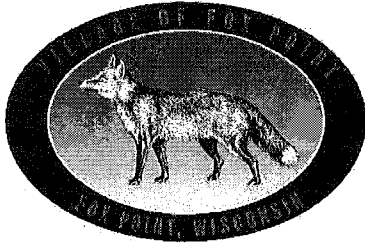
Thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 27 and allowing me to testify in favor of this legislation.

Assembly Bill 27 is a technical fix to last session's Act 175, which I authored. This act allowed counties and municipalities to consolidate health departments and gave counties greater flexibility in accessing county levy to finance these entities. Initially, county-county and city-county consolidation were included in the bill language, but an amendment was offered and passed to include city-city and multiple municipal local health departments. Governing bodies for consolidated health departments were required to use either equalized valuation or a per capita determination to prepare their budget for the following year.

Several communities were interested in or have already established multijurisdictional health departments, but employed neither of these budget methodologies. As a result, I authored Assembly Bill 27 which permits entities interested in consolidating health departments to formulate a budget using their method of choice.

This bill allows more local control for those governing bodies that seek to consolidate health departments. So long as these entities can agree on a budgetary method, they should be allowed to use the process of their choosing.

Thank you for your time and attention and I ask that you support this legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions.



VILLAGE OF FOX POINT

MILWAUKEE COUNTY
WISCONSIN

VILLAGE HALL
7200 N. SANTA MONICA BLVD.
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February 17, 2017

Representative Robert Brooks
60th Assembly District.
Room 107 West, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Representative Brooks:

The Village of Fox Point supports the adoption of LRB -0302, the proposed bill to amend 251.11 (1) and 251.115 of the statutes; relating to multiple jurisdiction health departments.


The North Shore Health Department consists of seven communities and was created by an Intergovernmental Agreement adopted by the seven communities elected Board's effective January 1, 2012. The Agreement was a result of dialogue, negotiation, and compromise to create a Board of Health that would provide high quality services and be cost effective. The communities' taxpayers received improved services at a lower cost. The negotiations included a funding formula adopted by the elected officials to specifically address the geography, demographics, and service requirements of the seven community members.

The seven North Shore communities have a historical tradition of shared services thru intergovernmental agreements. Major ones that include all seven communities are the North Shore Health department; North Shore Fire Department and the Bayside Communications Center. Others that consist of a smaller number of communities include the North Shore Library and North Shore Water Commission. All of these Agreements have been reached thru the cooperative negotiated leadership of the local elected officials

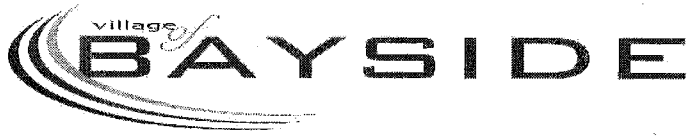
The proposed legislation would reestablish this successful approach that has benefitted our communities and made such shared service agreements possible.

Thank you for your consideration and we request the Bill be adopted.

Sincerely,


Scott A. Botcher
Village Manager

cc. Village Board



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February 17, 2017

Representative Robert Brooks
60th Assembly District
Room 107 West, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Representative Brooks:

The Village of Bayside supports the adoption of LRB-0302, the proposed bill to amend 251.11 (1) and 251.115 of the statutes; relating to multiple jurisdiction health departments.

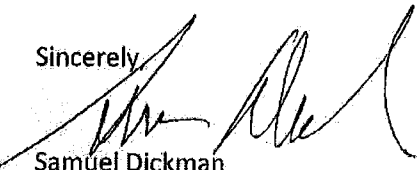
The North Shore Health Department consists of seven communities and was created by an Intergovernmental Agreement adopted by the seven communities' elected Boards effective January 1, 2012. The Agreement was a result of dialogue, negotiation, and compromise to create a Board of Health that would provide high-quality and cost-effective services. The communities' taxpayers received improved services at a lower cost. The negotiations included a funding formula adopted by the elected officials to specifically address the geography, demographics, and service requirements of the seven communities.

The seven North Shore communities have a historical tradition of shared services through intergovernmental agreements. Prominent examples are the North Shore Health department, North Shore Fire Department, and the Bayside Communications Center. Others that consist of a smaller number of communities include the North Shore Library and North Shore Water Commission. All of these agreements have been reached through the cooperative leadership of the local elected officials.

The proposed legislation would reestablish this successful approach that has benefitted our communities and made the shared service agreements possible.

Thank you for your consideration and we request the Bill be adopted.

Sincerely,



Samuel Dickman
Village President

cc. Village Board
Village Manager



Village of Whitefish Bay

5300 N. Marlborough Drive • Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin 53217 • (414) 962-6690

February 17, 2017

Representative Robert Brooks
60th Assembly District
Room 107 West, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Representative Brooks:

The Village of Whitefish Bay supports the adoption of LRB -0302, the proposed bill to amend 251.11 (1) and 251.115 of the statutes; relating to multiple jurisdiction health departments.

The North Shore Health Department consists of seven communities and was created by an Intergovernmental Agreement adopted by the seven communities elected Board's effective January 1, 2012. The Agreement was a result of dialogue, negotiation, and compromise to create a Board of Health that would provide high quality services and be cost effective. The communities' taxpayers received improved services at a lower cost. The negotiations included a funding formula adopted by the elected officials to specifically address the geography, demographics, and service requirements of the seven community members.

The seven North Shore communities have a historical tradition of shared services thru intergovernmental agreements. Major ones that include all seven communities are the North Shore Health department; North Shore Fire Department and the Bayside Communications Center. Others that consist of a smaller number of communities include the North Shore Library and North Shore Water Commission. All of these Agreements have been reached thru the cooperative negotiated leadership of the local elected officials

The proposed legislation would reestablish this successful approach that has benefitted our communities and made such shared service agreements possible.

Thank you for your consideration and we request the Bill be adopted.

Sincerely,

Julie Siegel
Village President

cc. Village Board
Village Manager

Good morning.

Thank you for the opportunity to connect and provide perspective related to 2017 Senate Bill 12 and Assembly Bill 27, an act to amend 251.11 and 251.115 of state statutes relating to multiple jurisdiction health departments.

Eau Claire City-County Health Department has been a joint City of Eau Claire and Eau Claire County health department since 1941. We have a strong and vibrant Level III local health department that provides comprehensive public health services to all residents in the City of Eau Claire and Eau Claire County. The oversight of the department comes from a Board of Health that has one City Council member and one County Board member with the remaining members representing various aspects of the community. We have a long standing strong connection with the leadership at the City and County including the City Manager and President of the City Council as well as the County Administrator and County Board Chair.

The department was formed in 1941 based on state statute. Corresponding local ordinances at the City and County were developed to provide mandates for the health department and Board of Health including use of equalized value for shared financing. This model has provided long-standing stability in financing and equity in assuring that public health services are focused on the population as a whole.

The existing funding requirement for merged health departments focuses the conversation at the local level on public health being about population-based services and not about which funding model works best for which entity. It allows for a common ground related to understanding the critical importance of core statutorily mandated services related to assessment of public health problems, policy to address these priorities, and assurance that local population health issues are addressed. The distribution of cost of health department services based on population or equalized value provides an equitable and consistent way for merged government entities to approach a service that is necessarily covering the health of all in the community. The health department protects from communicable disease outbreaks for everyone, not just those that walk through the door. The health department works to be prepared for public health emergencies to serve everyone, not just those that don't have another provider. The health department assures that human health hazards are prevented for everyone. Using population or equalized value is a way for government entities to avoid a discussion about who should pay more/less and keep the discussion on how do we have strong public health prevention happening – a shared need across the population.

I would be happy to talk more about how this existing model has worked to improve the health of residents in Eau Claire.

Thanks for your time looking at critical public health issues and your work to support the health of residents across the state.


Lieske (Elizabeth) Giese, RN, MSPH | *Health Officer-Director*

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To: Assembly Committee on Local Government
From: Curt Witynski, J.D., Assistant Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities
Date: March 8, 2017
Re: **AB 27, Multiple Jurisdiction Health Departments Clean-Up Bill**

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities supports AB 27, clarifying that when local governments agree to collaborate on combining their health departments, the agreeing parties have full discretion to determine how best to share between them the cost of providing the service. Legislation passed last session, 2015 Act 175, requires that a multiple jurisdiction health department use either equalized valuation or a per capita method to determine how to share the cost of the health department between the agreeing local governments. This bill eliminates that requirement. The bill instead requires a governing body for a multiple jurisdiction health department to determine a budget in a manner agreed upon by the governing bodies of the participating entities.

The North Shore Health Department consists of seven communities and was created by an Intergovernmental Agreement adopted by the seven communities' elected boards effective January 1, 2012. The Agreement was a result of dialogue, negotiation, and compromise to create a Board of Health that would provide high quality services and be cost effective. The communities' taxpayers received improved services at a lower cost.

The negotiations included a funding formula adopted by the elected officials to specifically address the geography, demographics, and service level requirements of the seven community members. The agreed to formula was not consistent, however, with the Act 175 language requiring that the funding be divided between the agreeing communities exclusively on the basis of equalized valuation or population. Enactment of AB 27 would clarify that the North Shore Health Department may continue to operate under its agreement and that other local governments may develop whatever funding formulas they determine work best for the collaborative service delivery arrangement they have agreed upon.

We urge the committee to recommend passage of AB 27. Thanks for considering our comments.