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Rep. Kitchens' DNR land sales bill becomes law

MADISON, Wis. – A bill authored by Rep. Joel Kitchens, R-Sturgeon Bay, that provides Wisconsin with more opportunities to take advantage of revenue generated from the sale of public land has officially become state law.

"I am extremely thankful that the governor has recognized the importance of this bipartisan legislation by signing it into law," Rep. Kitchens said. "I strongly believe Act 27 will contribute to making our existing public properties more enticing to our visitors, which will help us with further bolstering our state's revenue stream."

Before Rep. Kitchens' bill became law, proceeds from the sale of state-owned land controlled by the Department of Natural Resources could only be used to buy other parcels designated as public hunting and fishing grounds, wildlife and fish refuges or additions to state parks.

Act 27 now allows this revenue to also go toward enhancing existing public land or purchasing easements.

"Our overarching goal must always be to optimize the ability of Wisconsinites and visitors to enjoy our wonderful outdoors," Rep. Kitchens said. "This legislation gives us the flexibility to spend some of this money to improve infrastructure in our state parks and other lands or to purchase conservation easements. To me, it makes sense to not be locked into just buying more property to meet that goal."

Act 27 was also authored by Sen. Robert Cowles, R-Green Bay.

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