



# TERRY KATSMAS

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## Six Katsma Bills Pass State Assembly

**Madison**—Six bills authored by Representative Terry Katsma (R–Oostburg) have passed in the state Assembly this week.

“This is an extremely busy time of year for the state legislature,” said Rep. Katsma, “so I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues to help me pass these bills. All of these are important reforms that help Wisconsin keep moving in the right direction.”

**Assembly Bill (AB) 720** shortens Wisconsin’s cumbersome residential foreclosure process. “Under the bill, consumers are still protected by a host of federal- and state-level safeguards, but this is going to reduce the negative consequences that foreclosures have on neighborhoods and communities,” said Rep. Katsma. AB 720 passed in the state Assembly this week and is under consideration in the state Senate.

**Senate Bill (SB) 383** protects medical professionals who volunteer to assist law enforcement officers from frivolous lawsuits. “This bill solves a real problem that had arisen in Sheboygan County’s fight against illegal drugs and is going to help all Wisconsin communities partner together more capably,” said Rep. Katsma. SB 383 has passed in both houses of the state legislature and heads next to Governor Scott Walker for signature into law.

**Assembly Bill 602** adds Christian Schools International to the list of approved accrediting agencies that may qualify Wisconsin private schools to participate in the state’s parental choice and special needs scholarship programs. “AB 602 doesn’t expand school choice, but it does cut unnecessary red tape for schools that already qualify to participate,” said Rep. Katsma. The bill is awaiting passage in the state Senate later this spring.

**Senate Bill 605** clarifies a confusing law about how flashlights may be used in the field by hunters. “A Sheboygan County resident explained to me that this rule has been applied inconsistently, so we made the law easier for everyone to understand,” said Rep. Katsma. The bill does not expand the legal purposes for which lights may be used while hunting, but it explicitly permits such lights to be worn on the body or mounted to a firearm. SB 605 passed in the state Assembly on Thursday, February 18th and will be taken up by the state Senate soon.

**Assembly Bill 721** enables the state to redeem abandoned U.S. savings bonds if their rightful owners fail to claim them. “Rightful owners are always able to claim their property at any time, but right now, the Department of Revenue is the custodian of hundreds of thousands of dollars in



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bonds that no one has claimed,” said Rep. Katsma. “This bill allows that money to be deposited in the school fund and used to benefit our communities until the owners or their heirs come forward.” AB 721 passed with strong bipartisan support in the state Assembly this week and is expected to receive a vote in the state Senate soon.

**Assembly Bill 760** helps the state recover legal costs from individuals convicted of violating consumer protection statutes. “Statute has not kept up with the times,” said Rep. Katsma. “I couldn’t believe it when I learned that people who violate relatively new regulations about entities such as rental vehicles, self-service storage facilities and timeshares cannot be ordered to pay the state’s investigative costs. It is much more appropriate for a court to have the authority to make a guilty person pay than it is to make honest taxpayers foot the bill.” AB 760 passed with unanimous bipartisan support in Assembly and Senate committees and passed in the state Assembly this week.

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*Representative Terry Katsma represents the 26<sup>th</sup> Assembly District including the cities of Sheboygan and Sheboygan Falls; the villages of Adell, Oostburg, Random Lake and Cedar Grove; and the towns of Lima, Holland, Sherman and Wilson. He serves as the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Financial Institutions and as a member of the committees on Consumer Protection, Housing and Real Estate, Ways and Means and Workforce Development.*