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# ROBERT BROOKS

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Out with Theodore Roosevelt; in with the 21st Century** *Representative Rob Brooks supports Civil Service Reform*

**Madison, WI**—This week, Representative Rob Brooks (R-Saukville) proudly cast his vote in favor of legislation that updates an outmoded civil service law passed at the apex of Theodore Roosevelt’s presidency, in 1905. Wisconsin has undergone profound change since Theodore Roosevelt was president; the state’s civil service laws had not kept pace with those changes, however. Wisconsin has a proud history of recruiting the best and the brightest to work for the taxpayers of this great state; [AB 373](#) ensures that this remains a reality.

“Wisconsin’s civil services laws were passed in 1905 at the heart of the industrial revolution and Theodore Roosevelt’s presidency, and need to be improved to attract the best possible workforce for Wisconsin,” said Representative Rob Brooks. “It is imperative that we update this antiquated system, so as to provide consistency across state agencies and create a streamlined hiring process in order to compete with the private sector.”

AB 373 replaces the flawed civil service examination requirement with a competitive, resume-based system, akin to private-sector hiring processes. Under this bill, human resource services of state agencies would be centralized to help provide fairness and consistency. What is more, AB 373 employs an annual performance review process while placing a high priority on employee job performance. It also provides clear guidelines for employees as to what “just cause” would be for termination.

“AB 373 takes a proactive approach to resolving potential work shortages as it is estimated that more than forty percent of the state’s workforce will be eligible for retirement in ten years,” opined Representative Rob Brooks. “The time to overhaul the system is now.”

This bill modernizes civil service protections by expediting the appeals process, creating more certainty for both the employee and employer that their concerns will be addressed in a timely fashion.

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