



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Rep. Rob Brooks

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(608) 267-2369

Wisconsin State Assembly approves SB 314 relating to adverse possession

Madison, WI—Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed, unanimously, Senate Bill 314 relating to the adverse possession of public lands, authored by Representative Rob Brooks (R-Saukville) and Melissa Sargent (D-Madison).

SB 314 eliminates adverse possession of government property in Wisconsin. Under this bill, no property belonging to a state or municipal government, school district, sewage commission, or any other unit of government in Wisconsin, may be obtained by adverse possession.

“Senate Bill 314 is simple: it explicitly clarifies that adverse possession does not apply to publically-owned property,” said Representative Rob Brooks. “This is a common-sense, bipartisan piece of legislation and I am grateful for the support of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support of SB 314,” said Representative Rob Brooks.

This legislation, once enacted, would prohibit individuals from acquiring the title to public land by adverse possession. Additionally, AB 314 prohibits public entities and local units of government from adversely possessing privately-owned property. As such, this legislation is a win-win for local units of government and Wisconsin property owners.

“Many of us on both sides of the aisle come from backgrounds in local government. Those who have served on city councils or county boards know how thinly stretched our resources are, and how precious staff time is. Some municipal governments will save up to a million dollars because of this bill. I am proud of the hard work Rep. Brooks and I put into this strong, bi-partisan legislation,” Rep. Sargent stated. “Government works best when working towards pragmatic solutions to real problems. I am thankful to my colleagues for unanimously passing SB 314 and I look forward to the governor signing it into law in the near future,” said Representative Sargent.

The bill will be sent to Governor Scott Walker for his signature, later this month.

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