



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Bipartisan Bill Regulating Public Insurance Adjusters Unanimously Passes Assembly

*Ohnstad-authored Consumer Protection Bill Moves Forward*

MADISON – Today bipartisan legislation co-authored by Representative Tod Ohnstad (D-Kenosha) to provide greater regulation of the business practices of public insurance adjusters in our state passed the State Assembly unanimously.

Representative Ohnstad worked on the bill with the Wisconsin Insurance Alliance and lead authors Representative David Steffen (R-Green Bay) and Senators Dan Feyen (R-Fond du Lac) and Janet Bewley (D-Mason). The bill now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

“Insurance is a major industry in Wisconsin and represents a critical sector of our state economy,” Representative Ohnstad said. “While the vast majority of insurance agents and employees work with the utmost levels of professionalism every day on behalf of their clients, adequate regulation is still necessary to establish guidelines and provide a process to root out bad actors.”

The legislation, Assembly Bill 357, sets up a framework to license public adjusters in our state. Public adjusters are not affiliated with a particular insurance company, but instead work independently on behalf of a policyholder to assist with the claims process in exchange for a fee. Public adjusters can be of tremendous value to a claimant in ensuring these somewhat complicated processes are handled properly and that they receive the appropriate compensation they are owed based on their coverage.

“Unfortunately, there have also been horror stories of fly-by-night adjusters who swoop in after a disaster and take advantage of claimants when they are at their most vulnerable,” Ohnstad noted.

“These worst case scenarios see families swindled out of their money at the time they need it most, such as following a fire, flood, tornado, or other tragedy. This legislation is intended to address these issues and to ensure Wisconsin families are not gauged or exploited by snake oil salesmen in the wake of an accident or disaster.”

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