



BOB ZIEGELBAUER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • TWENTY FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
Issue Summary #3
February 4, 2003

“Concealed Carry Proposal” / “Personal Protection Act”

Background Information:

The “Personal Protection Act” / “Concealed Carry Proposal” is based on a piece of legislation that was enacted in the State of Michigan. Based on proposals introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature during the 2001 Session, AB 675 and SB 357 would establish a system run by local Sheriff’s (with a local option to opt out) that would allow citizens over the age 21 to apply for a “carry concealed license”. The applicant’s name would be submitted to the state Department of Justice for a background check that would turn up a criminal record in any state. If the applicant passed the checks and shows proof of completion of a firearm safety course, she/he could pay a fee and receive a tamper-proof picture I.D. In addition to paying the costs of licensing, the applicant would pay \$15 into funds for law enforcement excellence in the issuing county, and range improvements to ensure ranges are available for licensees to remain proficient. Under the legislation, carrying would be banned in certain public places such as airports, taverns, and athletic events.

Rep. Ziegelbauer’s View:

While I am sympathetic to this cause and am trying to be very open-minded on this proposal, I feel I should represent the 25th Assembly District, **and at this time**, I do not believe that the majority of my constituents are in support of the “concealed carry” legislation. In the past, I have often conducted polls in Manitowoc County on this issue through questionnaires circulated throughout my District.

Although my **2002 Questionnaire** showed a significant increase in support for the concept – 46% support a concealed carry permit; 42% do not support a carry permit; and 12% are undecided – proponents aren’t quite there yet. If they are to succeed, supporters of this concept need to continue the public debate in the hope of convincing more of their friends and neighbors. Results of my **2000 Questionnaire** indicate that 37% out of 3,521 responses were in favor of a concealed carry firearm law while 52% were opposed to such a law. In addition, my **1997 Questionnaire** showed that 37% out of 2,638 responses were in favor of concealed carry. In contrast, 54% were opposed to the idea. In my **1996 Questionnaire**, only 30% of the respondents out of 2,869 were in support of a concealed carry law while 58% were opposed.

- continued -

STATE CAPITOL: P.O. BOX 8953, MADISON, WI 53708-8953 • (608) 266-0315
TOLL FREE: 1-888-529-0025 • FAX (608)-266-0316 or (608) 282-3625 • E-MAIL: bob.ziegelbauer@legis.state.wi.us
DISTRICT: 1213 S. 8TH STREET, P.O. BOX 325, MANITOWOC, WI 54221-0325
MANITOWOC OFFICE: (920) 684-6783 • HOME: (920) 684-4362

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



BOB ZIEGELBAUER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • TWENTY FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Issue Summary #3
February 4, 2003

While I am definitely **open to changes in public opinion**, I believe that the challenge now is for those currently in favor of the “concealed carry” concept to compete in the arena of public opinion and work to convince their fellow citizens in our community of the benefits of the idea.

During the 2001-02 Legislative Session, I voted “no” on 2001 AB 675 when this bill came for a vote on the Floor of the State Assembly on Wednesday, February 27, 2002. While it passed the State Assembly (at 3:54 a.m.!!) with a 58-40 vote, I voted “no” for the reasons outlined above. AB 675 was then sent to the State Senate where it did not receive a vote by the full Senate. For further consideration, the concealed carry proposal will need to be reintroduced during the 2003-04 Legislative Session.

As always, I appreciate hearing from you and the opportunity to exchange views on issues of importance to you.

###