



BOB ZIEGELBAUER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • TWENTY FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Issue Summary #5
February 28, 2003

“LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT on GAMING COMPACTS”

Background Information:

In early 1990, the Wisconsin Legislature & then Governor Tommy Thompson approved legislation (1989 Wisconsin Act 196) to authorize the governor alone to enter into compacts on behalf of the State of Wisconsin that have been negotiated under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. **At that time, the Legislature in effect, handed over to the governor its responsibility to give final approval to the proposed agreements.**

On February 20, 2003, SB 41 was introduced to again give the Legislature responsibility for final approval of proposed agreements. This bill provides that, before the governor may enter into, amend, extend, or renew any Indian gaming compact that has been negotiated, the governor must submit the proposed compact to the legislature for approval. The governor may not enter into, amend, extend, or renew any compact until the legislature approves the proposed compact by joint resolution. If the legislature does not approve the compact, the compact must be returned to the governor for renegotiation.

Rep. Ziegelbauer’s View:

On Friday, February 21, 2003 I supported 2003 SB 41 as it passed both the State Senate and State Assembly. On Friday, February 28, 2003, Governor Jim Doyle vetoed SB 41.

I believe the Legislature made a very big mistake in 1990 in handing over not only its power but its responsibility to oversee the agreements with the state’s Native American tribes in operating casinos and bingo halls. For me, it’s a matter of checks and balances, responsibility and accountability. The people of our districts expect us to participate in major decisions affecting life in Wisconsin.

Despite the high regard I have for Governor Doyle, I will continue to support SB 41 and vote to override his veto.

###

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