



REP. KARL VAN ROY • 90TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

VAN ROY'S VIEWS

LEGISLATIVE E-UPDATE

Friday, November 2, 2007

It's Alive!!! - Frankenstein Veto Strikes Again A Halloween Trick from Gov. Doyle

Just in time for Halloween Governor Doyle donned his Frankenstein costume and began stitching together various parts of the budget to craft a new document in his own image. After FrankenDoyle was finished stitching and pillaging, you are the ones left holding a higher property tax bill.

The bipartisan budget compromise included an extension of the property tax limits that Governor Doyle signed into law two years ago. Under the agreement, the property tax levy could only increase by 2%, or the value of growth due to new construction, whichever is greater. But as soon as the handshakes of compromise broke, Governor Doyle went to work, rewriting what he had just negotiated in good faith.

In the end, he "creatively" rewrote the levy limits section of the budget so the 2% levy limit turned into a 3.86% increase, almost twice what was originally agreed to. This Frankenstein veto means that property taxes in Wisconsin could increase by an additional \$41.4 million... a truly scary story for Halloween.

SECTION 1881. 66.0602 (1) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

66.0602 (1) (d) "Valuation factor" means a percentage equal to the greater of either 2 percent or the percentage change in the political subdivision's January 1 equalized value due to new construction less improvements removed between the previous year and the current year, but not less than 2. Except as provided in subs. (3), (4), and (5), no political subdivision may increase its levy in any year by a percentage that exceeds the political subdivision's valuation factor. In determining its levy in any year, a city, village, or town shall subtract any tax increment that is calculated under s. 60.85 (1) (L) or 66.1105 (2) (i).

Vetoed
In Part
Vetoed
In Part

SECTION 1882. 66.0602 (2) of the statutes is created to read:

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Vetoed 66.0602 (2) LEVY LIMIT. Except as provided in subs.
In Part (3), (4), and (5), no political subdivision may increase its
levy in 2007 or 2008 by a percentage that exceeds the
political subdivision's valuation factor. The base amount
in any year, to which the limit under this section applies,
shall be the maximum allowable levy for the immediately
preceding year. In determining its levy in any year, a city,
village, town, or county shall subtract any tax increment
that is calculated under s. 59.57 (3) (a), 60.85 (1) (L), or
66.1105 (2) (i).

The Anatomy of a Frankenstein Veto

Budget - Green Bay City Deck Off to a Windy Start

Thanks to a provision in the new state budget, Green Bay's downtown has a bright future ahead. On Monday morning I held a press conference with Mayor Jim Schmitt to announce that the budget included \$2.8 million in Department of Commerce dollars for the City Deck project.

The City Deck will revitalize downtown Green Bay by providing 1,400 feet of shoreline for new retail shops, restaurants, condominiums and parks. This grant from the Wisconsin Development Fund is the last bit of essential funding needed to complete the \$12 million dollar project. In all, half of the project's funding came from a new TIF (tax incremental finance) district, the state provided \$4.2 million since the project's inception, and remaining funds came from corporate donations. Construction is scheduled to start next year and will be completed by 2010.

I'm happy to see such a successful partnership of private and public money come together for the good of our city's economy. A strong downtown is essential for the prosperity of the entire region. Too often we see state budgets pass that only concentrate economic development programs at Madison and Milwaukee and I'm very happy that I was able to work with the Mayor, Assembly Speaker Huebsch and the Governor's office to ensure that Green Bay got its fair-share in this budget.



Rep. Van Roy and Mayor Jim Schmitt at the City Deck press Conference

[City Deck Homepage](#)

[WBAY - State Contributes \\$2.8 Million More to Green Bay City Deck](#)

[Press Gazette - City looks for sponsors to complete riverfront development](#)

Assembly Floor Session Highlights

The Assembly met this week to take up numerous bills. Here are highlights on a few of the items that passed during Tuesday's floor action:

Our soldiers make many personal sacrifices to serve and defend our country. [AB 32](#) prohibits employment discrimination due to the fact that a person is or was a member of the National Guard, state defense force, or any reserve component of the U.S. military, unless the person was subject to a bad conduct or dishonorable discharge.

[AB 181](#) requires continuing education for architects, landscape architects, professional engineers, designer of engineering systems and land surveyors. This bill will bring about better consumer protection and ensure that these individuals are knowledgeable about new developments and improved professional practices.

[AB 246](#) recognizes U.S. Passports and U.S. Military identification cards with a photograph and date of birth as valid forms of identification for proving age to purchase alcohol or enter a bar. It also makes clear that a valid driver's license from another state is an acceptable form of official identification. Current law on this issue is very confusing for both businesses and law enforcement, and individuals are being treated differently across the state. Clarifying the statutes will eliminate the confusion and inconsistent treatment.

[AB 258](#) removes legal barriers faced by employers in offering their employees Wellness Financial incentives to stop smoking, exercise, and live a healthier lifestyle. According to reports released by the Health Enhancement and Research Organization and Mercer Management Journal, 70% of health care expenses are associated with preventable conditions with 50% of health care costs attributable to individual behaviors such as smoking, alcohol abuse, and obesity. Improved wellness in the workplace means fewer sick days, higher productivity, and potentially lower health insurance costs for everyone.

As [amended](#), [AB 282](#) prohibits a person from threatening to cause bodily harm to a school district or technical college district employee. This bill was the result of local law enforcement and school officials coming together to address weaknesses in current law in the wake of the Weston school shooting tragedy in which a high school principal was murdered by a student. AB 282 gives law enforcement the tools necessary to address a precursor to school violence - threats.

Statistics show that a majority of snowmobile injuries and deaths occur at night with alcohol and speed as factors. Last year, we passed into law a temporary 55 mph speed limit on snowmobiles when driving during "hours of darkness" to determine if it would reduce the number of accidents. Due to lack of snow last year, little statistical data could be gathered. [AB 526](#) extends the 55 mph nighttime snowmobile limit through July 1, 2010 so data can be gathered to determine the effectiveness of this safety measure.

We also passed [Assembly Joint Resolution 74](#) which I authored to honor the lifelong professional and community service achievements of Max McGee. Most people remember Max as a Packer legend, but he also contributed to the community by founding the Maxi Fund and the Max McGee National Research Center for Juvenile Diabetes at the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. I first met Max at Zuider Zee's Supper Club where I worked as a waiter while going to college. Max was always a gentleman and a great tipper too. Just as we are saddened when Packer legends leave the football field, we are equally saddened when they leave us in life. My sincerest condolences go out to Max's family.



Speaking on the Assembly Floor in Honor of Max McGee

State Representative Karl Van Roy
State Capitol - P.O. Box 8953 - Madison, Wisconsin 53708
Toll Free: (888) 534-0090 - Fax (608) 282-3690
Email: Rep.VanRoy@legis.wisconsin.gov
On the Internet: www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm90/news/

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