



KARL VAN ROY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

For Immediate Release
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Van Roy Applauds Passage of Sweeping Ethics Reform Bill

MADISON – Today the State Senate and State Assembly convened in Special Session to pass Special Session Senate Bill 1 to create a new Government Accountability Board that will enforce elections, ethics, and lobbying laws. Rep. Karl Van Roy (R-Howard) called this the most sweeping ethics reform bill in Wisconsin History.

"The citizens of this state deserve a clean and honest government and a system that makes sure that those who violate the public's trust are held accountable. I hope that these tough new measures will help restore the public's confidence in their elected officials," stated Rep. Van Roy.

Special Session Senate Bill 1 passed the Senate on a unanimous vote and the Assembly by an overwhelming majority of 97-2. The bill, crafted by a bipartisan group of legislators and representatives from the governor's office, will take aggressive steps to add accountability and integrity to state government. The bill includes provisions to:

- Combine the State Elections Board and the State Ethics Board into the Government Accountability Board (GAB). The new non-partisan board will be comprised of six former judges.
- Grant the GAB authority to investigate violations of state ethics, campaign finance and election laws.
- Remove the non-severability clause; if any single part of the ethics reform package is called into question by the courts, the GAB and the remainder of the ethics reforms will remain intact.
- Refer investigations revealing evidence of criminal activity to district attorneys and/or the state Attorney General for prosecution.

"I'm pleased that Republicans and Democrats in both houses were able to work together in the spirit of bi-partisan compromise and a desire to get the job done for the good of everyone in Wisconsin. I hope this cooperative attitude carries through the remainder of the legislative session," Van Roy said.

Special Session Senate Bill 1 now goes to the Governor for his signature.

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