



KARL VAN ROY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

For Immediate Release
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Four Van Roy Bills Pass Senate

MADISON – Four bills authored by Rep. Karl Van Roy (R-Howard) were concurred in by the State Senate on Tuesday and Wednesday with overwhelming bi-partisan support. Assembly Bills 143 and 365 passed on voice votes. AB 486 was approved 30-3, and AB 800 passed 31-2.

AB 143, requested by the Brown County District Attorney and supported by the Association of State Prosecutors, allows prosecutors and defense attorneys to maintain a copy of a convicted defendant's pre-sentence investigation (PSI) report in their confidential files. Prosecutors feel that having an immediately accessible copy of the PSI will give them helpful background information about the defendant to make better charging and plea bargain decisions should that person re-offend in the future.

"This bill is simply another tool to create much needed efficiencies in our criminal justice system," said Van Roy.

The second bill to advance was AB 365, also known as "The Safe Intersections Act." The bill helps to prevent the unauthorized sale and possession of an electronic device that gives drivers the ability to change a traffic light from red to green at the flip of a switch. The devices, commonly known as Mobile Infrared Transmitters (MIRTS), are intended for use by fire, police and emergency services personnel, but internet sales of the device have made it available to civilians as well.

"Regular citizens shouldn't be able to change the light because they are running late to work or simply frustrated that they are waiting too long on a red," stated Van Roy. "AB 365 has the support of virtually every law enforcement group in the state because civilian use of these devices can cause traffic jams and auto accidents," Van Roy said.

Van Roy's third bill targets the control of cormorant populations. AB 486 requires the DNR to work with federal agencies to manage cormorant populations that are destroying yellow perch and other fish populations and island habitats in the Bay of Green Bay.

"Cormorants, with their voracious appetites and toxic excrement, are a serious threat to the environment and economies tied to Green Bay," stated Van Roy. "This is a great bill for Green Bay, but, as Sen. Lasee would say, too bad for the cormorants!"

The final Van Roy bill to gain approval was AB 800 which creates uniformity in Wisconsin's existing hunter education statutes by establishing a single standard requirement that applies to all adults, youths, bow hunters, elk hunters, and general hunting licenses. It also allows for recognizing approved certifications of hunters from other provinces and countries.

“This bill will put \$40,000 to \$80,000 more into the fish and wildlife account for conservation because of sales of hunting licenses to certified hunters from other countries, not to mention the positive impact to our tourism base,” said Van Roy. “Increasing the numbers of hunters will also help reduce our overpopulated deer herd,” Van Roy concluded.

AB 365, 486 and 800 are now available for the Governor to sign into law. AB 143 returns briefly to the Assembly for concurrence on a simple before it can be signed into law.

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