



Jeremy Thiesfeldt

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 52nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Municipal Court Fee Bill Heads to Governor's Desk

Madison, WI –Today, Assembly Bill 22 (AB 22), authored by Rep. Jeremy Thiesfeldt, was passed by the State Senate on a 33-0 vote and now heads to the Governor's desk for his signature. The bill passed the Assembly 95-1 earlier this year. The bill would allow local jurisdictions an ability to increase the permissible threshold for municipal court fees by up to \$10. This cost would be borne by the party found guilty of an ordinance violation.

Rep. Thiesfeldt stated, "I am grateful that this bill is nearing the Governor's signature. Judges from around the state made the journey to Madison to testify before committees in favor of this change. They showed decisively that for them to remain open and avoid being subsidized by the general taxpayer, they needed the ability to raise the fee on ordinance violators."

There are approximately 350 municipalities served by 243 municipal courts in the State of Wisconsin hearing nearly half a million cases per year. Cases heard by municipal courts are primarily truancy issues, all traffic matters, ordinance and underage alcohol and drug violations.

Rep. Thiesfeldt concluded, "If municipal courts were forced to close due to insufficient funding the circuit courts would be required to absorb the caseload causing delays and additional costs. I appreciate the wide bipartisan support the bill has received, and I urge the Governor to quickly sign it so municipalities can budget appropriately for next year."

This bill would increase the maximum filing fee in a municipal court action from \$28 to \$38 when the court finds an ordinance has been violated. The last fee increase was in 2005. No one registered in opposition or spoke against the measure.

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