

March 18, 2016

Wild Rivers Bill Signing

On Tuesday, Governor Scott Walker signed Assembly Bill 422 (AB 422) into law at the Wild Rivers Interpretive Center in Florence. The center houses the Florence County Forestry and Parks, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, United States Federal Forest Service, University of Wisconsin Extension, and Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles.



AB 422 was a bill I authored with Representative Rob Swearingen that restores funding to the center. More specifically, it provides \$27,000 of funding from the Forestry Account of the Conservation Fund to the Florence Wild Rivers Interpretive Center in Fiscal Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017. Current law requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide this funding, but no money was appropriated for this purpose.

The Wild Rivers Interpretive Center provides Florence residents and tourists with several important services. In fact, the center served around 20,000 visitors in 2014. I am pleased the Governor made the trip up to Florence to sign the bill to allow services to continue at Wild Rivers.

Last Day of Session

Tuesday was also the final time the Wisconsin State Senate will take to the floor for this legislative session. There were 80+ pieces of legislation that were taken up and I wanted to highlight a few of the bills we passed as well as a few of the pieces of legislation that I authored.

First, we passed several bills to help patients diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia as well as their families. I mentioned these bills a few weeks back when we took them up in the Joint Committee on Finance. There is currently no cure for Alzheimer's or dementia so it is important that individuals are aware of the resources available to help manage the symptoms and complications related with the two diseases.

Assembly Bill 787 will add \$1 million to the Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program for respite care. Assembly Bill 790 will increase training grants to local mobile crisis teams by \$250,000. These grants will help crisis teams train to become dementia - capable. Assembly Bill 786 requires the Department of Health Services to propose a pilot program for a more specialized dementia crisis unit. This unit would serve those living with dementia who are in a crisis situation.

Next, we passed several bills intended to help students of higher education. These bills include:

Wisconsin Grants (AB 740): Benefits over 1,000 technical college students by increasing the needs-based Wisconsin Grants by \$1 million in the biennium.

Emergency Grants (AB 741): Provide \$450,000 for emergency grants to keep students in school who experience a financial emergency.

DWD Internship Coordinators (AB 742): Uses existing money to create two positions at DWD to connect employers with Wisconsin universities and create internship opportunities.

Financial Literacy (AB 744): Requires all higher education institutions to send students an annual letter with information about their loans so they can make better decisions about their financial future.

Also, we passed several pieces of legislation that are part of the Heroin, Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) agenda to help address the state's prescription opioid epidemic.

Assembly Bill 658: Criminalizes the use, possession, manufacture, distribution, and advertisement of any substance or device that is intended to defraud, circumvent, interfere with, or provide a substitute for a bodily fluid in conjunction with a lawfully administered drug test. Given that many employers subject their employees to lawfully administered drug tests, this bill will help ensure that people are not defrauding or interfering with the test results.

Assembly Bill 659: State regulations regarding opioid treatment programs are much more stringent than federal regulations. In order to afford more people accessibility to the treatment they need, this bill streamlines Wisconsin's state regulations to align with federal regulations. With these changes, more Wisconsinites will be able to have access to opioid treatment.

Assembly Bill 660: Allows a number of medical-affiliated boards under the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to issue guidelines regarding best practices in prescribing controlled substances. These best practices will help reduce instances of over prescribing and, in turn, lessen prescription opioid misuse, abuse, and addiction.

Assembly Bill 766: Creates reporting requirements for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). The data collected will be reviewed and evaluated by the Controlled Substances Board (CSB) to determine the effectiveness of the PDMP and to compare actual outcomes with projected outcomes.

Finally, we passed two pieces of legislation that I authored:

Assembly Bill 824: This bill authorizes the Department of Public Instruction to pay unexpended sparsity aid to a school district that qualified for sparsity aid in the previous school year but, because of an increase in the school district's membership, does not qualify in the current school year. Current law permits the department to award up to \$300 in sparsity aid per pupil to a school district that has a membership of up to 725 pupils if the school district's membership divided by the school district's area in square miles is less than ten. The bill also changes the membership cap of the school district to 745 pupils beginning in the 2016-17 school year.

Assembly Bill 704: This bill allows a tribal college-county joint library to participate in a public library system. A tribal college-county joint library is established when a county board enters into a qualifying agreement with a tribal college to maintain a public library for the county. The agreement must require that the tribal college annually provide to the county library board an accounting of the expenditure of any appropriations received from the county and that the tribal college make the library free for the use of the inhabitants of the county.

National History Day

Did you know 95% of the Irish left during the potato famine?

This was among the many facts that I learned at the National History Day contest at Lakeland Union High School last Saturday. Dozens of students participated in the contest put on by the Historical Society where I served a judge.

I mentioned this contest in last week's update, but I want to acknowledge the great work the history/social studies department did putting on this event in conjunction with the Historical Society. Congratulations to all the participants - there were many good historical presentations made. I certainly want to give credit to all the students who put so much time and effort into their projects. I was pleased to be able to participate as a judge and I wish all the students who advanced to the state competition the best of luck.

Veterans ID Card

On Tuesday, the Senate passed Senate Bill 295 that creates online voter registration – making voting easier than ever. The Governor signed the bill into law on March 16 as Act 261. The law also allows Wisconsin's veterans to use a photo ID card issued by the Veterans Health Administration to get a ballot when they vote on April 5. Online voter registration will make it easier for voters who live in residential care facilities, or those who travel seasonally to register. The bill makes it so that an occupant of a residential care facility may now use a contract or intake document prepared by the facility that specifies that the occupant currently resides in the facility as proof of residence for the purpose of registering to vote from the facility's address. The document may, but is not required to, identify the room or unit in which the occupant resides.

Under the law, veterans' photo identification cards that are issued by the Veterans Health Administration of the federal Department of Veterans Affairs may be used as an acceptable form of proof of identification for obtaining a ballot. The VA card must be unexpired or have no expiration date. Under existing law, photo identification cards issued by the military could already be used for voting purposes, including cards issued to retired service members or their dependents. Military photo ID cards must be either unexpired, have no expiration date, or have expired since the last general election in November 2014.

For a complete list of acceptable photo IDs, visit <http://bringit.wisconsin.gov>. The voter ID education website also has information about how to get a free state ID card for voting from the DMV.

DNR Rolls Out "Go Wild"

A new licensing system that provides additional options for buying hunting and fishing licenses was launched

Thursday by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Implementation of the new system is part of a broader Go Wild campaign that encourages people to head outdoors and enjoy the numerous recreational opportunities made possible by the sound management of Wisconsin's natural resources.

The new system, accessible at GoWild.Wi.Gov, allows customers to get licenses, tags and other DNR products through more than 1,000 vendors statewide, at DNR Service Centers and offers easy access on mobile devices through the website. The new system secures licensing and registration information electronically and enables customers to use a variety of methods for providing proof of purchases while out enjoying Wisconsin's exceptional natural resources. New proof of purchase opportunities provided through Go Wild include an optional personal conservation card, an authenticated Wisconsin driver's license, a plain paper copy or a pdf display on a mobile device such as a smartphone.

In recent years, hunters have purchased approximately 100,000 "leftover" permits not issued through the spring turkey permit drawing. This year, the sales for Zone 1 permits begin March 21 at 10 a.m.; Zone 2 permits on March 22; Zone 3 permits on March 23; Zone 4 permits on March 24 and Zones 5, 6 and 7 on March 25. More than 109,000 spring turkey permits will be available in all and leftover sales will continue for all zones on March 26.

GoWild.WI.Gov also acts as a portal to help plan adventures that make the most of Wisconsin's great outdoors. The site links to information on hunting and fishing opportunities, Wisconsin's unparalleled network of state parks, trails and natural areas and a variety of maps.

No fee increases are planned as part of the upgrade and online user convenience fees have been eliminated for customers who use electronic checks. Online service options include hunting licenses, fishing licenses and Conservation Patron licenses.

Later this month boat, snowmobile, ATV and UTV registrations will be added. Once implementation is complete, GoWild.Wi.Gov also will be the spot to get ATV, UTV and snowmobile trail passes, sign-up for a safety education courses and much more.

This year, renewal notices for ATVs and UTVs were sent out in January and renewal notices for boats will be arriving in customer's mailboxes over the weekend or early next week. For those recreational vehicles that expire at the end of the month, customers will need to keep a copy of the renewal notice in their vehicle until they receive the registration stickers in the mail.

The system also makes it easier to obtain a reprint or printed hard-copy of the original hunting, trapping or fishing approval or safety certificate. With the ability to reprint products from the convenience of home, there is no need to drive to a license agent to purchase a duplicate if you lose your license or carcass tags.

While the new Go Wild system will not provide the option of purchasing by phone, DNR customer service agents will be able to assist customers who would like assistance as they navigate the system or have questions about a transaction. The customer service number remains 1-888-WDNRINFo (1-888-936-7463).

To learn more, visit GoWild.Wi.Gov or visit DNR.Wi.Gov and search "Go Wild." Informational resources include fact sheets, descriptions of how and when certain forms of proof apply as well as tagging information for a variety of game.

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events

Start Date		Location
March 19	<u>Taste of Tomahawk</u>	Tomahawk
March 19	<u>Hodag Home Show</u>	Rhineland
March 19	<u>7th Annual Crooked Lake/Mountain Lions Spaghetti Dinner</u>	Crooked Lake
March 19	<u>Easter Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt</u>	Boulder Junction
March 19	<u>Huge Spring Craft & Vendor Sale</u>	Merrill
March 26	<u>Easter Egg Hunt</u>	Lakewood
March 26	<u>Easter Egg Hunt</u>	Merrill
April 2	<u>Phelps Maple Syrup Fest</u>	Phelps
April 23	<u>Hodag Hops and Vines Microbrew and Wine Tasting</u>	Rhineland
April 28	<u>Taste of the North</u>	Minocqua
May 7	<u>Martinis in May</u>	St. Germain
May 7	<u>Colors of Cancer 5K</u>	Crandon
May 7	<u>Community Kolor Run</u>	Merrill
May 13 - 15	<u>Chamber Walleye Tournament</u>	Presque Isle
May 28	<u>Main Street Memories Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet</u>	Tomahawk
May 29	<u>Main Street Memories Car Show</u>	Tomahawk

As always, if you have any comments or thoughts regarding the subjects of this e-update, please feel free to contact me.

If you would like to be removed from future mailings, [email me](#) and ask to unsubscribe.

State Capitol Room 409 South- PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53708

(608) 266-2509

Email: Sen.Tiffany@legis.wi.gov