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# DEVIN LE MAHIEU

## STATE SENATOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Sen. LeMahieu Votes to Protect Taxpayers, Repeal Prevailing Wage in State Budget**

**Madison** – *Tonight, the Senate passed the state budget, Senate Bill 21, including a repeal of the prevailing wage law for school districts and local governments. In response, Senator LeMahieu released the following statement:*

“Today’s budget protects the taxpayers of Wisconsin. The citizens I represent live within their means, and they expect the state to do the same. With this budget we made the tough decisions to provide the services we expect in Wisconsin, while holding the line on taxes and achieving the lowest bonding level in 20 years.

“The Senate stood up for taxpayers by voting to repeal the prevailing wage law for local governments, including school districts, throughout the state. The prevailing wage law drives up costs, increasing local taxes and decreasing the effectiveness of the resources we invest in local infrastructure. Taxpayers, small businesses, school superintendents, mayors, town board members, county administrators, and other local leaders throughout the district have shared their opposition to the prevailing wage law.

“The repeal also levels the playing field for small businesses throughout the state. For too long small businesses have been boxed out of government projects because of the high administrative costs of complying with a confusing, protectionist law. Repealing the prevailing wage law gives small businesses an opportunity to compete for this work.”

“Other budget highlights include a tuition freeze for college students, increased funding for K-12 education, increased access to the school choice program giving families of limited means educational options, and reduction of the marriage tax penalty.

“I’m especially proud of accomplishing several of my budget priorities. Working with local school district superintendents, we modified the Course Options program to maintain access to college credits for students in a sustainable way. Another amendment allows local governments to carry forward up to 5% of their levy limit, giving flexibility to encourage smart budgeting. I also authored an amendment to fight waste, fraud, and abuse in public benefits by recapturing the cost of lost or stolen EBT cards.

“We were able to accomplish all this without raising taxes, while ending the budget cycle with an \$87 million surplus and fully funding our \$270 million rainy day fund.”

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