



NEWS RELEASE
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SEN.COWLES' RENARD ISLAND LAKE BED GRANT BILL PASSES SENATE

Bill Aims to Provide Greater Public Access Opportunities in Green Bay

MADISON- The State Senate today unanimously gave approval to Senate Bill 282, authored by Senator Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay). Senate Bill 282 provides a lake bed grant to Brown County to allow the causeway that currently provides access to Renard Island to be a permanent fixture.

“I am excited to see what the county plans for the island and causeway in order to increase public access and county park recreational opportunities,” said Cowles. The public access bill authored by Senator Cowles and Representative John Macco (R-Green Bay) as well as other Green Bay-area legislators will allow the causeway to permanently remain in Green Bay to provide access to Renard Island, which the county is considering as an addition to the Bay Beach Amusement Park.

To further protect the Bay, the bill limits the type of structures that can be built on the property to those that facilitate public use and access to the land or aid in navigation. “I want to make certain that this land is utilized to allow the public greater recreational opportunities in Green Bay,” Cowles said. Senate Bill 282 also prohibits Brown County from selling all or any part of the land to any person other than the state, a political subdivision of the state, or a special purpose district of the state.

The Army Corps of Engineers built and operated the causeway and is requiring permanent approval of the causeway in order to turn ownership over to Brown County. This bill will provide the permanent status the Corps is requiring and lay the foundation for the county to manage the island and causeway for public use.

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