



# SCOTT FITZGERALD

## SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Fitzgerald Statement on Senate Passage of GAB Overhaul**

**[Madison, WI]** Today in an extraordinary session, the Wisconsin Senate passed an amended version of Assembly Bill 388 (Senate Bill 294) to overhaul the state Government Accountability Board (GAB). Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald released the following statement:

“Today the Wisconsin Senate took another step in ending a dark period in our state’s history. For the past several years, the GAB has been anything but accountable, repeatedly crossing lines and trampling over the constitutional rights of Wisconsin’s citizens in an effort to carry out their own partisan agendas.

Through a legislative audit and a series of court cases and related document releases, the public has learned that the GAB systemically failed to carry out their statutorily required duties while focusing countless agency hours and over \$1 million in taxpayer dollars on a partisan investigation which was shut down by the Supreme Court as both ‘unconstitutional,’ and, ‘unsupported in either reason or law.’

Rightly called a failed experiment, the current structure of the GAB has allowed the staff to go rogue, acting without authorization from the agency’s board and often outside of state law. By replacing the GAB with two bipartisan commissions, this overhaul will create balance and ensure that this egregious abuse of power will not happen again.”

The amended bill now moves again to the Wisconsin Assembly for final passage before being sent to the Governor.

*Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) represent the 13<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which covers portions of Dodge, Jefferson, Waukesha, Washington, Dane, and Columbia counties.*

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