



HOWARD MARKLEIN

STATE SENATOR • 17TH SENATE DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Signs Five Marklein Bills

Bills include initiatives related to Terrorist Threats, Health Care Data Modernization, Savings Bonds, ABLE Accounts and DATCP Enforcement Actions

MADISON— State Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) announced that Governor Scott Walker signed five bills authored or co-authored by Sen. Marklein today, including Assembly Bill (AB) 341 related to terrorist threats.

“I was honored to join Reedsburg Police Chief Tim Becker and Lieutenant Darrin Frye for the signing of the Terrorist Threat bill that I co-authored with Rep. Ed Brooks,” Marklein said. “This bill is a terrific example for how a local police department can impact statewide policy by identifying a problem and proposing a solution.”

Act 311 - Assembly Bill (AB) 341 / Senate Bill (SB) 256 – Terrorist Threats – This bill was initiated by the Reedsburg Police Department in response to an incident that happened at a Reedsburg elementary school that disrupted the school day and caused panic. An individual threatened to “shoot-up” the school, which forced the administration to close the school and investigate. The person responsible could only be charged with a misdemeanor, even though they caused serious panic and cost the community time and money for law enforcement actions, lost work time, and more. The bill was co-authored with Rep. Ed Brooks (R-Reedsburg).

This bill makes any threat to cause death, bodily injury, or property damage by any means to prevent the occupation of a building, vehicle, or other public place of assembly, into a Class I felony. This law would also apply if the individual intends to cause interruption or public panic. The penalty for a Class I felony in Wisconsin is a fine up to \$10,000 and/or a prison sentence of up to three years and six months. This bill aligns penalties for terrorist threats, such as threatening to shoot children at a school, with existing penalties for making a bomb threat.

Other bills signed today include:

Act 287 - AB 765 / SB 628 – Health Care Data Modernization – This bill makes technological updates to health care data laws while protecting patient-doctor relationships and confidentiality. One of the more significant upgrades will allow hospitals to more efficiently target resources to areas where they identify health patterns. For example, if a particular community happened to have a lot of residents with diabetes, a health care provider may target programming geared toward managing diabetes. This legislation was drafted at the request of hospitals in my Senate District.

Act 309 - AB 721 / SB 603 – Abandoned US Savings Bonds - This bill changes state law so that an abandoned U.S. savings bond held by the State of Wisconsin that remains unredeemed for five years after final maturity is presumed abandoned and subject to the custody of this state under this state’s version of the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act.

Act 312 - AB 731 / SB 604 – ABLE Accounts – This bill repeals the authority to create ABLE accounts in WI and creates tax benefits for contributions to ABLE accounts in other states. This bill is meant to enable all individuals with disabilities to access and create ABLE accounts from other states that are near to launching programs. Allowing access to other states will be more efficient and immediate than creating a separate program in Wisconsin. This bill is in response to a federal law change in December 2015.

Act 310 - AB 760 / SB 584 – Enforcement actions for DATCP – This bill expands the type of enforcement actions in which a court may order a defendant to reimburse DATCP for costs incurred in preparing and prosecuting the case, including actions relating to future service plans, rental vehicles, self-service storage facilities, time shares, and foreclosure consultants. The defendant would only reimburse the state for investigative costs if he or she settles the case with a negotiated civil forfeiture or is found guilty by the courts. This bill would allow the courts to require proven violators of the law to cover these costs, as opposed to passing the costs onto taxpayers.

“This has been a very productive session,” Marklein said. “I am proud of our achievements and appreciate all of the input, ideas and encouragement I have received from the residents of the 17th Senate District.”

Act 309, Act 310, Act 311 and Act 312 were signed into law today, Wednesday, March 30, 2016 in the Governor’s Conference Room at the State Capitol. Act 287 was signed as a part of the Wisconsin Hospital Association Advocacy Day events in Madison, WI.

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