



Senate OKs bill to make it tougher to raise taxes

By [Patrick Marley](#) of the Journal Sentinel

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Madison — The Senate passed a bill Tuesday that says a two-thirds vote in both houses of the Legislature would be needed to raise the state sales tax or income tax.

But Sen. Fred Risser (D-Madison) said the bill is not legally enforceable.

"It's a useless piece of legislation," he said. "It's not worth the piece of paper it's written on."

Sen. Leah Vukmir (R-Wauwatosa) said the bill was a starting point that "sends a very clear message" to voters and that legislators would not raise taxes.

The bill passed 20-12, with Sen. Julie Lassa (D-Stevens Point) joining all 19 Republicans.

It now goes to Republican Gov. Scott Walker, who called for the measure.

With or without the new measure, the GOP-controlled Legislature would not be expected to raise taxes. Future legislatures could roll the two-thirds requirement back to a simple majority.

