

STATE SENATOR



**ANDRÉ JACQUE**

1ST SENATE DISTRICT

## **STATE CAPITOL TOURS ARE BACK!**



After being shut down for over a year, Capitol tours will be resuming on Tuesday, July 6, 2021! Tours depart from the Information Desk on the ground floor of the Rotunda Monday through Saturday at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 am, 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 pm, and on Sunday at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 pm. An additional 4:00 pm tour is offered weekdays through Labor Day. Please contact Capitol Tours at (608) 266-0382 to schedule a group of 10 or more, or go to <http://tours.wisconsin.gov/pub/reservations/default.aspx>.

Also, the observation deck and 6<sup>th</sup> level museum will be opening for the season on Friday, July 2, 2021. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM; Saturday 9 AM to 3:45 PM; Sunday noon to 3:45 PM.

## **2021-23 State Budget**



Sen. Jacque joins Senators in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance before a June Floor Session

***Exempting Military Pay from State Taxation***



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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June 18, 2021  
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## **BUDGET PANEL MAKES MILITARY SERVICE LESS TAXING**

*Portion of projected budget surplus will end state taxation of residents' active duty military pay*

MADISON... Tax relief for Wisconsin's active duty service members is one step closer after the Legislature's budget panel voted to end state taxation of active-duty military pay last night as part of a \$3.4 billion tax cut package.

State Sen. André Jacque (R-De Pere) and State Rep. James Edming (R-Glen Flora), who introduced the provision, said that Wisconsin's projected \$5.7 billion budget surplus at the end of fiscal year 2023 leaves ample room for this \$20 million annual tax cut.

"There is no fiscal reason that our Wisconsin armed service members deployed out of state should have a tax bill as their primary reward back home," Sen. Jacque said. "Making military service less taxing is another way for us to honor the service of those who put their lives on the line to defend the freedoms that built this economy and generated this budget surplus."

"Those who answer the call to serve our state and nation in the armed forces make many sacrifices," said Rep. Edming. "As we return a portion of the state's surplus to the taxpayers it is only right that we eliminate the income tax for those actively serving our nation protecting the freedoms we all hold dear."

In addition to benefiting service members, Sen. Jacque and Rep. Edming said the policy change would increase Wisconsin's ability to retain and recruit trained military personnel for Wisconsin's workforce.

"Many native Wisconsin service members change their legal addresses outside the state just to avoid being taxed while on active duty, and they never return," Sen. Jacque said. "We need service members back in Wisconsin's workforce, instead of losing these valuable assets to other states."

Wisconsin is in the minority of states that generally tax active duty military pay of residents; Illinois, Michigan, Iowa and Minnesota do not.

"By encouraging service members to keep their residency in Wisconsin, it increases the likelihood that they will return home after they've completed their military service," said Rep. Edming. "With employers around our state struggling to find enough workers to meet their needs, making it easier for Wisconsinites who serve to come home and join our state's workforce will be good for businesses and our economy."

Rep. Edming and Sen. Jacque have also co-authored bipartisan legislation exempting active-duty military pay from state taxation, ([Assembly Bill 39](#))/([Senate Bill 43](#)), which unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Revenue earlier this year.

The Joint Finance Committee wrapped up work on the 2021-23 state budget Thursday. The package must now pass both houses of the Legislature and be signed by the Governor to take effect.

The 2021-23 State Budget will make military service less taxing thanks to my initiative exempting active-duty income from state taxation. Many native Wisconsin service members change their legal addresses outside the state just to avoid being taxed while on active duty, and they never return. The state tax code should encourage service members to return to Wisconsin's civilian workforce, instead of sending these skilled individuals to other states. I have also co-authored bipartisan legislation exempting active-duty military pay from state taxation, ([Assembly Bill 39](#))/([Senate Bill 43](#)), which unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Revenue earlier this year.



## DNR to Preserve Potawatomi Park Tower



Photo: DNR

Local citizens recently convinced the Evers' Administration to reverse course and repair the historic 90-year-old Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower. The campaign to save the landmark is an example of public engagement at its best. I commend local citizens, local governments and community groups, especially the Sturgeon Bay Historical Society Foundation (SBHSF), for preserving this structure.

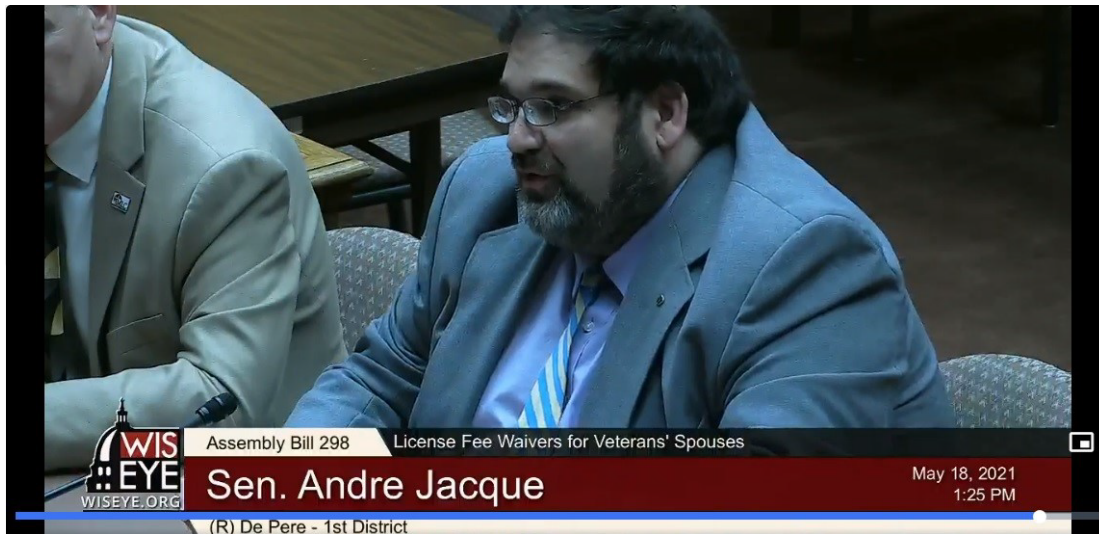
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Secretary Preston Cole announced the reversal in a meeting in May with me, Rep. Joel Kitchens, and Christie Weber, President of the SBHSF. The DNR had planned to tear down the historic structure after deeming it unsafe in 2018.

It appears pretty evident that the administration's position has moved from recommending demolition to supporting and funding repair and looking at additional accessibility accommodations.



My goal has always been to help save this treasured landmark in a manner that preserves it for future generations and respects the history of the Potawatomi Nation. This is also a big win for local tourism, which we all know has taken a hit from the pandemic.

## Licensure Fee Relief for Military Spouses



At a public hearing of the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform, Sen. Jacques discussed the burden of license fees for military spouses seeking employment

Wisconsin is a leader in employing veterans. However, spouses of active duty military members faced a pre-COVID 24% unemployment rate, and over 31% are working part-time even if they would prefer to work full-time. Research by the Syracuse University Institute for Veterans and Military Families finds that up to 35% of military spouses are employed in fields that require licensure, which can be a costly burden for military families who must frequently move. To reduce this barrier to employment - and increase the pool of well-trained, qualified workers to help fill the thousands of jobs that remain open - I have introduced legislation to waive licensure fees for military spouses.

## Senate Approves ABLE Account Expansion



**ANDRÉ JACQUE**

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June 9, 2021  
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## **JACQUE BILL AIMS TO EMPOWER THE DISABLED**

*Legislation initiates planning for tax-exempt "ABLE" savings accounts*

MADISON, WI... Wisconsin's efforts to empower individuals with disabilities continued today as the State Senate passed legislation in a voice vote directing state officials to draw up plans for tax-exempt savings accounts that can help cover the cost of services those with physical and cognitive challenges need to live full, independent lives.

State Sen. André Jacque (R-De Pere), co-author of the proposal with State Rep. Jeff Mursau, said that Wisconsin is currently just one of seven states that do not have their own Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account program, although state residents may open accounts in other states.

Earlier this month, the Senate unanimously approved my legislation directing state officials to draw up plans for tax-exempt savings accounts. These funds can help cover the cost of services those with physical and cognitive challenges need to live full, independent lives.

Similar to 529 college savings accounts, federal law allows states to create tax-exempt savings accounts to cover expenses - such as education, housing, transportation, and more - for disabled individuals under the age of 26. This bill moves our state closer to establishing an Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account program in Wisconsin, while still keeping out-of-state programs available for our citizens.

## **Sen. Jacque Leads Clean Water Efforts in Midwest**

## CAUCUS SHARES IDEAS, BEST PRACTICES ON NUTRIENT RUNOFF

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus' (GLLC) Nutrient Management Task Force remains busy in 2021, promoting the model policies it released last year.

The caucus hosted a two-part web meeting on April 23 and May 7, examining nutrient-management policies in the Great Lakes



Wisconsin Sen.  
Andre Jacque

jurisdictions of Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario and Wisconsin. A related webinar on May 21, hosted by the Great Lakes Commission, focused on quantifying the impacts of such programs. These web meetings can be viewed via the GLLC's website: [greatlakeslegislators.org](http://greatlakeslegislators.org).

The work of the Nutrient Management Task Force began in 2019. That year,

nutrient pollution was the focus of the Patricia Birkholz Institute for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Policy.

Then, led by Wisconsin Sen. Andre Jacque, the task force released a list of model policies in September 2020.



**GREAT LAKES  
GLLC  
ST. LAWRENCE  
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS**

### ABOUT THE CAUCUS

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus is a binational, nonpartisan organization of state and provincial legislators. Membership is free and open to legislators in the eight states or two provinces bordering the Great Lakes or St. Lawrence River. Led by an Executive Committee of legislators from across the basin, the GLLC has two officers: Illinois Rep. Robyn Gabel, chair; and Minnesota Rep. Jennifer Schultz, vice chair.

The Midwestern Office of The Council of State Governments provides staff support to the caucus. Among the GLLC activities: an annual meeting; regularly held, policy-focused web meetings; legislative trackers on water quality; federal Great Lakes advocacy; and the Patricia Birkholz Institute for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Policy.

This institute brings together a select group of GLLC members to examine a single issue and create a plan for regionwide action. The 2021 Institute will focus on climate resiliency in coastal communities.

Stateline Midwest, published by the Council of State Governments, recently featured the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus' (GLLC) Nutrient Management Task Force, which I lead. We held a two-part web meeting earlier this Spring. Clean water knows no boundaries, so it's important for state officials throughout the region to work together.

## Breakfast on the Farm





To celebrate June Dairy Month and the farm families that make Wisconsin The Dairy State, I've volunteered at dairy breakfasts throughout the 1st Senate District this month. These events would not be possible without the work of volunteers and host families, and generous donations. Thank you to everyone who took the time to come out and say hello. I know it feels great to be able to get together with our families, friends, and neighbors again!

**Congratulations, Graduates!**



Last month I had the opportunity to participate in Lakeshore Technical College's Spring 2021 virtual graduation ceremony. Earning a degree after years of hard work and dedication should be extremely gratifying under any circumstances; given the historic, extraordinary year we have all just experienced, this accomplishment is even more incredible.

To all graduates, I join your parents, relatives, friends, and teachers in expressing how very proud we are of your achievements. No matter where you go in life from here, this certificate will go with you, along with your other life experiences that have shaped you into who you are today. You will also be stronger for these times you have endured.

## **Stay in Touch!**

If you're interested in learning more about what goes on day-to-day at the Capitol, follow me on [Facebook](#). It's an opportunity to get near-daily updates that you don't see in my E-Updates. If you missed an E-Update, [I have them posted on my website](#).

If you have any comments regarding the content of this E-Update, please feel free to contact me.

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