

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 30, 2021

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Rep. Tusler's Bill Helps Wisconsin Respond to the Kenosha Riots & the Chauvin Conviction

Assembly Bill 190 (AB 190) is Wisconsin's answer to the Kenosha riots and the Derek Chauvin conviction. AB 190, relating to: the responsibilities of the Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB) and disclosure of employment files when recruiting former or current officers, requires the LESB to set minimum qualifications standards for recruitment of new law enforcement, jail and juvenile detention officers, as well as, state-wide training standards for those officers.

The Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, the Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association, the Badger State Sheriffs' Association, the Milwaukee Police Association are asking the state to rectify our police employment file shortcomings to give our law enforcement agencies the best information possible when hiring a new officer. Had Minneapolis known Chauvin's history, it is likely they would not have hired him and George Floyd would still be alive today.

Democrat Rep. Sheila Stubbs has requested to be a co-author of AB 190 and she is excited to join this bipartisan effort. Rep. Stuffs is the Co-Chair of the Speaker's Task Force on Racial Disparities. Further, Rep. Steineke reached out earlier this week seeking some minor amendments to help the bill get signed by Gov. Evers.

Wisconsin's law enforcement officers do an incredible job protecting lives and communities, which is why it is imperative our law enforcement agencies have the best and most qualified individuals. The purpose of the bill is to provide law enforcement agencies throughout the state with better resources to recruit, hire and retain officers.

Currently, law enforcement agencies are permitted to enter into non-disclosure agreements regarding their employees which prevents a recruiting agency from seeing all of the information in a candidate's file. While this bill grandfathers in the old NDA's and honors them, it prohibits their use going forward. Instead, the bill creates an employment file to be maintained by an officer's current employer that will be transferred to any new law enforcement, jail or juvenile detention employer. The file may include,

commendations, performance reviews, disciplinary actions, administrative files, etc. allowing prospective employers to get a complete picture of a candidate. This file will travel with the officer to other law enforcement related jobs. However, items not included would be those related to salary and benefits. The bill also sets minimum qualification standards for new recruits and state-wide training standards for all law enforcement officers.

Finally, the bill gives LESB the authority to decertify an office for a variety of reasons, including failing to comply with LESB rules, falsifying information, engaging in domestic abuse and failure to pay child support.

Rep. Tusler is proud to author the bill and looks forward to the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety committee recommending it for passage before the entire State Assembly soon!

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