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Assembly Supports Tiletown District Development *Assembly Passes Bill to Help Green Bay Packers Obtain Needed Liquor Licenses*

Madison- Today, the Assembly voted in favor of a bill that will allow the Green Bay Packers to acquire the additional liquor licenses needed for the Tiletown District development. Last year the Packers unveiled plans for the \$130 million development project, which will include high-end restaurants and hotels, located in the Village of Ashwaubenon. Ashwaubenon has exhausted its liquor licenses under the state's quota system, creating an obstacle for future sports bars and businesses looking to open their doors in the Tiletown District.

State Rep. David Steffen (R-Howard) authored legislation to remedy this liquor license shortage. This bill will ensure the Tiletown District and other similarly situated developments throughout the state can reach their full potential. The proposal would create flexibilities within the quota system, allowing municipalities and development projects additional options for obtaining these valuable licenses.

"This legislation will benefit not only the Packers, but other development projects throughout the state. Currently, municipalities without licenses are missing out on business opportunities because they cannot offer potential tenants the necessary licensing. This bill changes that. Municipalities that once had to turn away potential developments due to lack of licenses, will now be open for business again; that is great news for the entire state of Wisconsin," said Rep. Steffen.

For municipalities, like Ashwaubenon, that have exhausted their liquor licenses, this legislation creates two options for obtaining additional licenses. The first option is the regional transfer. This allows a municipality to sell up to three of its unused licenses to a neighboring municipality for a minimum price of \$10,000/license. The second option is the Premier Economic Development District (PEDD). This option is available for development projects with an assessed value of \$20 million or more. A municipality may establish a PEDD and issue up to two licenses for the district. PEDD licenses are two additional licenses beyond a municipality's quota.

The bill will now move on to be considered by the Senate.

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