



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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## **Legislators Address NFL Draft Public Safety Needs**

*Funding focuses on community safety during historic event*

**Green Bay, WI**—Today, State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) and State Representative Ben Franklin (R-De Pere) were joined by first responders and local leaders in announcing their efforts to provide state funding for the public safety requirements associated with next week's NFL Draft.

"Ensuring the success and safety of an event of this size requires an enormous amount of public resources," said Rep. Steffen. "As about 2/3 of the estimated \$96 million economic benefit of this event occurs outside of Green Bay, it's appropriate for the state to cover a portion of the costs, especially relating to public safety."

Rep. Ben Franklin echoed the importance of ensuring no corners are cut when it relates to keeping the NFL Draft visitors safe. "Next week, we will be on the world stage," said Franklin. "Ensuring this event runs smoothly and safely is critical to our community and our state's reputation as the best place to live, work, invest and in this case, host world-class events."

The vast majority of the more than \$10 million in hosting-related expenses are being covered by businesses, sponsors, and the Green Bay Packers. However, many of the costs associated with core services such as safety and sanitation are the responsibility of local and county government.

The pair of legislators are seeking \$1.25 million through the state budget process to be directed to the Ashwaubenon Public Safety Department (\$75K), Brown County Sheriff's Department (\$500K), Green Bay Police Department (\$475K) and Green Bay Metro Fire Department (\$200K). It is estimated that these allocations will address approximately two-thirds of anticipated public safety expenses associated with the NFL Draft. Roughly two-thirds of the economic impact of this event will be statewide.

"Let's be clear, the state taxpayers will still turn a profit off the Draft. On sales tax alone, we expect over \$4.5 million to be collected by the state government. This far exceeds the total amount being provided through this legislation, as well as last session's investment," said Rep. Steffen.

For more information contact the office of Rep. Steffen at 608-237-9104 or [Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov) or Rep. Franklin at 608-237-9188 or [Rep.Franklin@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Franklin@legis.wisconsin.gov).

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