



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 27, 2015

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Bill to Return Excess Stadium Tax Heads to Governor

Assembly Passes Bill to Return Millions of Dollars to Brown County Taxpayers

Madison- Today, the state Assembly passed a bill (AB 296) that will return over \$17 million in excess Lambeau Stadium sales tax revenue back to the taxpayers of Brown County. The bill, authored by State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) and State Senator Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay) provides a pathway for returning excess revenue that was collected through a 0.5% sales tax referendum passed in 2000. The state Senate already unanimously passed this legislation last month. The bill is now in Governor Walker's hands, and he has indicated he will sign the bill into law within the year.

"This bill is about keeping a promise to the taxpayers of Brown County, that any excess revenue collected through the sales tax would be returned to the taxpayers. I am proud that today, my colleagues in the Assembly supported this measure, which not only upholds this promise, but provides the most timely and efficient path for returning this excess revenue," said Rep. Steffen. "I am pleased at how smoothly this bill has moved through the legislative process and look forward to having these funds returned to Brown County and its communities within the year."

In March the Professional Football Stadium District and Department of Revenue certified that the bonds for the renovation project had been paid and that the maintenance fund was fully funded. This legislation ensures that excess sales tax collected between the certification date and the conclusion of the sales tax (September 30, 2015) will be returned to Brown County and its political subdivisions in a fair and responsible manner. Revenue can be used for the purposes of property tax relief, tax levy related debt relief, or economic development.

"I'm pleased that today the Assembly joined the Senate in voting to return the excess Lambeau Field tax to the taxpayers and communities of Brown County," Senator Cowles said. "I would like to thank Rep. Steffen and other Brown County legislators for their efforts to return this excess tax to Brown County for property tax relief, debt repayment and economic development."

The bill is now available to be signed into law by Governor Walker. Rep. Steffen anticipates that the bill will be signed and excess revenue will be returned to Brown County and its subdivisions within the year.

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