



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 5, 2025

CONTACT:
Rep. David Steffen (608)237-9104
Sen. Jesse James (608)266-7511

Legislators Introduce Court Fairness Bill

Randomized venue selection option aims to restore confidence in court system

Madison, WI—Today, State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) and State Senator Jesse James (R-Thorp) introduced legislation that aims to restore fairness and impartiality in Wisconsin circuit court cases involving various government officials and entities. The proposal will establish a random venue selection opportunity in Wisconsin court cases involving state and federal officials and entities. Currently, these types of cases are often heard at the Dane County Circuit Court, resulting in predictable outcomes.

“While the officials and entities that make-up our branches of government represent the broad array of values and viewpoints that exist across Wisconsin, because of our capital’s location in Madison, court decisions involving these parties often represent just one viewpoint, that of the Dane County Circuit Court. These decisions often have statewide impacts and every single circuit court venue in Wisconsin should have an opportunity to hear these cases—Dane County isn’t uniquely qualified to do so,” said Rep. Steffen.

This proposal establishes a voluntary process, wherein a party to cases involving state or federal officials or entities may request and receive a random case venue re-assignment, selected from the pool of Wisconsin circuit courts.

“Justice should never be a matter of geography,” said Senator James. “This bill ensures that cases with statewide implications are heard in circuit courts across Wisconsin, creating a legal process that reflects the diverse communities and perspectives of our state. Randomized venue selection is a practical solution to promote fairness, restore balance, and build confidence in the integrity of our courts.”

The proposal is currently circulating for co-sponsorship support before it will be available for consideration at a public hearing.

For more information please contact the offices of State Representative David Steffen at Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov or (608)237-9104 or State Senator Jesse James at Sen.James@legis.wisconsin.gov or (608)266-7511.

###