



PAUL TITTL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 25TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Rep. Tittl Votes for Governor to Update UI Computer Systems

Madison, WI – Rep. Paul Tittl (R-Manitowoc) voted to direct Governor Evers to upgrade the Unemployment Insurance (UI) computer systems at the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). The legislation was amended to include provisions to protect businesses, schools, and local governments from frivolous lawsuits and provide more relief to those who lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

“Governor Evers has neglected to improve the system or lead during the most stressful time for unemployed Wisconsinites,” said Rep. Tittl. “This bill provides a roadmap for improvements for Wisconsin’s outdated computer system, a process which the governor could have begun on his own.”

The legislation requires DWD to issue a request for proposals (RFP) within 30 days after the bill’s effective date. The computer upgrade project must begin by June 30, 2021. The bill requires federal funds to be used first before tapping into state dollars. The Governor already has the ability to procure and finance a new computer system through the state master lease program.

“It is unfortunate that the Evers administration has used the outdated computer system as an excuse for the massive backlog of UI claims during the height of the pandemic,” said Rep. Tittl. “Several nonpartisan audits of the agency showed mismanagement was mainly to blame, and yet he has continued to exclude it from his two budgets.”

This legislation also includes a number of common-sense initiatives from the Coronavirus Relief Bill that the Governor vetoed earlier this year:

- Exempts UI one-week waiting period through March 14
- Includes civil liability exemption language
- Provides benefit charging, work-share, and extended benefits provisions

“The governor has been in office for more than two years and his administration has yet to make a meaningful effort to replace the computer system even with all the available tools at his disposal.”

The legislation passed in the Assembly in a 89-0 vote and it received bipartisan support in both chambers. The bill now heads to the governor for his signature.

The 25th Assembly District includes portions of Calumet and Manitowoc Counties.

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