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Assembly Passes Local School Safety Bills
Local workgroup initiatives on their way to becoming law

Madison- Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly was in session and passed Assembly Bills (AB) 53 and 54. Both bills were authored by Representative Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam) and emerged out of a local workgroup on school safety. The workgroup, created in 2010, consists of representatives from local response agencies and all school districts in Dodge County.

"Over the past few years, I've had the opportunity to join the local workgroup to discuss how all aspects of society can work together to improve the safety of children in our schools," said Rep. Mark Born. "The passage of this legislation is a prime example of how some of the best ideas come directly from our constituents back at home and how schools, law enforcement, and government can come together, break down silos, and accomplish our shared goals."

Both bills consist of minor changes to state statute that will improve the safety of children in schools. AB 53 permits a school district to add the name of a pupil's parent or guardian to the list of categories that they can include in their directory data, a list of information that a school may disclose as long as certain notification procedures are followed. AB 54 allows a person that has direct charge of a school to give a warning to students before a fire, tornado, or school safety drill, if it is in the best interest of the student.

"The addition of elected officials to our workgroup has allowed us to convey the local efforts needed to support the districts and to directly affect the legislation needed to continue that support," said Amy Nehls, Dodge County Emergency Management. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with elected officials to pursue and shape future legislation."

Both bills passed the Assembly with bipartisan support. Futher action is needed in the Senate before being sent to the Governor's desk for final approval.

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