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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 39TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Born Votes to Direct Gov. Evers to Upgrade UI IT System

Madison, WI – Rep. Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam) and his colleagues in the State Assembly voted to approve legislation directing Governor Evers to upgrade the Unemployment Insurance (UI) IT system. The legislation was also amended to include provisions to protect, businesses, schools and local governments from frivolous lawsuits.

“This bill provides a roadmap for Governor Evers to upgrade the UI IT system,” said Rep. Born. “As I have mentioned over and over again, Governor Evers does not need legislative approval to start this process and could have already initiated it on his own. We are directing the Governor to take action now, because he has so far refused to do so.”

The legislation requires Governor Evers’ DWD and DOA to work together to initiate an IT system upgrade. It directs DWD to issue a request for proposals (RFP) within 30 days after the effective date of the bill and the upgrade project must begin by June 30, 2021. It also requires federal funds to be used first, before utilizing state funds.

This bill also includes common sense initiatives from the Coronavirus Relief Bill that the Governor vetoed earlier this year:

- Exempts the unemployment insurance one-week waiting period through March 14th
- Includes civil liability exemption language pertaining to COVID-19
- Incorporates benefit charging, work-share, and extended benefits provisions

“If upgrading the unemployment system is a priority for Governor Evers, he will support this legislation,” said Rep. Born. “Not only does this bill prioritize the modernization of our unemployment IT system, it also includes a number of common sense provisions that the Governor has expressed support for in the past.”

The legislation passed the Assembly and received overwhelming bipartisan support in both houses. It now heads to the governor for his signature.

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