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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Assembly Local Government Committee approves two bills authored by Representative Rob Brooks

Madison, WI—Today, the Assembly Committee on Local Government unanimously approved two bonding bills authored by Representative Rob Brooks (R-Saukville).

The first of the two bills, Assembly Bill 168, makes the filing of an official bond by local units of government permissive, not mandatory. At this writing, state law stipulates that certain municipal officials must, as a prerequisite to assuming office, file an official bond. The purpose of this bond is to protect the municipality and taxpayers against any loss of public funds which might occur when the public officials fail to perform the duties of their respective offices.

The second proposal, Assembly Bill 169, ensures property taxes are properly distributed to local taxing entities, chiefly, schools, municipalities, counties, and technical colleges. Currently, most property tax payments made in December and January, are paid to, and collected by, municipal treasurers. Municipalities retain a share of the property tax and distribute the remainder to other taxing jurisdictions.

“Assembly Bills 168 and 169 are much-needed, common-sense reforms to outmoded state statutes. In the case of Assembly Bill 169, Wisconsin’s surety bond threshold is no longer sufficient to cover the state and county tax levy in the even a municipality is unable to distribute the property tax,” said Representative Rob Brooks. “These bills are a win-win for local units of government and Wisconsin taxpayers,” Brooks opined.

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