



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 22, 2019

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Utility Aid Levy Limit Fix Bill Signed by Governor Evers

Madison – Legislation helping the Village of Pleasant Prairie and Kenosha County maintain their existing level of services in light of the closure of the Pleasant Prairie Power Plant became a reality yesterday with Governor Evers' signature of Assembly Bill 235, which was introduced by Rep. Samantha Kerkman (R-Salem Lakes) and co-sponsored by Sen. Van Wanggaard (R-Racine).

With the closure of this power plant, the Village of Pleasant Prairie and Kenosha County will eventually lose the utility aid payments that they currently receive from the State of Wisconsin to compensate for the lack of property tax revenue received on this property. The utility aid payments will be stepped down by 20 percent increments over a five year period. According to the Village of Pleasant Prairie, they stand to lose \$1.6 million in utility aid payments. This is equivalent to 14 firefighters or police officers. While this property is no longer exempt from property taxes after the utility aid is stepped down, the value of this property cannot offset the loss of utility aid payments since the overall levy limit may only be adjusted when counting newly constructed buildings.

This legislation, which takes effect in December 2020, allows both Pleasant Prairie and Kenosha County to adjust their levy limit over five years to compensate for the eventual elimination of utility aid.

"I am grateful that Governor Evers has signed this bill into law," said Rep. Kerkman. "This bill will allow the Village of Pleasant Prairie and Kenosha County to continue to provide the existing level of services to their residents despite the step-down of utility aid payments. According to the Village of Pleasant Prairie, this bill should have no property tax impact on homeowners bearing in mind the anticipated closure of a tax incremental financing district (TID) – an economic development tool used by local governments – within the next few years," continued Rep. Kerkman.

"Pleasant Prairie is in the midst of tremendous growth," said Sen. Wanggaard. "The shuttering of the power plant and loss of utility aid could have stymied that growth and harmed the quality of life. I'm glad that this bill is now law, so that Pleasant Prairie can continue to thrive," continued Sen. Wanggaard.

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