



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JESSE JAMES

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Rep. James' Homelessness Bill Clears Assembly Hurdle

Madison, WI – Representative Jesse James (R-Altoona) showed his support for Republican led initiatives to both end and prevent homelessness in Wisconsin, as the “A Hand for the Homeless” legislative package of eight bills was heard on the Assembly Floor this afternoon. The set of bills follow last session’s first steps towards curbing homelessness, including the creation of the [Interagency Council on Homelessness \(ICH\)](#). These next steps directly mirror the recommendations made in the ICH’s statewide action plan, [A Hand and a Home: Foundations for Success](#).

“Homelessness, whether people are aware or not, is a problem that affects virtually every community in our state,” said Rep. James. “Though many places like Altoona or Augusta have many positive things going for them, homelessness is still there. This package of legislation sends a message that we in the Legislature want to come alongside those struggling and provide a hand up.”

The “A Hand for the Homeless” package includes new programming and \$3.75 million in new spending – a number that more than doubles the state’s current commitment to address the issue. The funding includes an additional \$500,000 for the Homeless Prevention Program, \$900,000 for the Housing Assistance Program, and \$250,000 to the Skills Enhancement Program – meant to work in tandem to attack homelessness from every angle.

“Homelessness is a complicated issue,” said Rep. James. “But just because it’s difficult, doesn’t mean we should shy away from solutions. I want to thank my colleagues in the Legislature and the bipartisan, state-wide Interagency Council on Homelessness for elevating this important issue.”

The funding for the “A Hand for the Homeless” package was approved by the Joint Committee on Finance in the state’s budget. All eight bills passed out of the Assembly with bipartisan support, and now head to the state Senate for their consideration.

You can find more information on the [“A Hand for the Homeless” bills here](#).

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