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Assembly Passes Summer Camp Regulatory Reform Package

MADISON – Wisconsin summer camps will deal with less government red tape under a package of legislation that cleared the State Assembly with unanimous support on Tuesday. Senate Bills (SB) 168, 171, and Assembly Bill 166, also known as the Summer Camp Regulatory Reform Package, removes commonly faced barriers for Wisconsin summer camps.

SB 168 allows qualified out of state physicians to temporarily practice at summer camps in Wisconsin without going through the time consuming temporary licensure process. Representative James Edming (R-Glen Flora), the Assembly author of SB 168 said, "Camps across our state are struggling to recruit physicians to serve as camp doctors. While the vast majority of injuries treated by a camp doctor are minor, having a doctor on hand provides an extra level of care that should be encouraged. SB 168 will make it easier for camps to have a camp doctor on staff."

AB 166 allows out-of-state nurses to temporarily practice nursing at summer camps. Representative Gae Magnafici (R-Dresser), the author of the bill said, "Attending a Wisconsin summer camp is a tradition as old as eating cheese curds. With Wisconsin's rural nursing shortage, camps were beginning to worry if they could find a nurse for the summer. Now, parents can be confident their kids will be well taken care of at camp."

SB 171 allows DATCP to waive any inspection requirements for summer camps that have exhibited effective managerial control of public health hazards. Representative James (R-Altoona), the bill's author said, "Going to summer camp is one of the best ways for kids to fully embrace everything Wisconsin has to offer! Now, summer camps do not have to worry about so much red tape and can continue to provide for all those going to camp."

With passage by the Assembly, the Summer Camp Regulatory Reform package now heads to Governor Evers' desk.