



# TREIG E. PRONSCHINSKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92<sup>nd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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## Taxpayers Now Have Peace of Mind

I am happy to announce that on January 21<sup>st</sup>, Governor Evers signed Act 71 into law. Originating as Assembly Bill 257 and Senate Bill 233, the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Restitution Act has now officially been enacted into law to hold public employees accountable if they are convicted of stealing money from taxpayers.

Under this bill, a judge is allowed to order the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) to withhold up to 25% of a person's pension payment for restitution, which is currently the maximum amount allowed under federal law.

It is important to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used properly and that our hard working citizens are not being taken advantage of. There are 25 other states that have similar legislation that protects taxpayers.

Act 71 is the result of individuals coming forward and bringing to attention the wrongdoing of a former Eau Claire County Treasurer and former Deputy Treasurer that were convicted of stealing over \$625,000 from the county and sentenced to time in jail.

Unfortunately, this bill does not affect those former officials from Eau Claire County that were convicted, but it will most certainly be a way for the public to hold public officials accountable in the future and to be able to recoup some of the funds that were wrongfully stolen from them to begin with.

I have been in support of this bill throughout the process as this piece of legislation moved through the Assembly and the Senate and onto the Governor's desk to be signed. State Representative Warren Petryk and State Senator Kathy Bernier have positively been able to impact taxpayers statewide by passing this bill in both houses of the legislature to keep taxpayer dollars safe.

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns.

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