

# Urban & Local Affairs

## AB 165 – Neighborhood Improvement Districts

Rep. Richards

### Summary of Bill AB 165:

*Assembly Bill 165: In 2006 Wisconsin created the Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) statute. The statute was patterned after the current BID laws. In 2006 NIDs were narrowly focused on multifamily or mix-use entities. The purpose of a NID is to provide extra amenities or services to a neighborhood that would improve its appearance livability or safety. Example: Extra lighting, park benches, signage, more landscaping, etc.*

*AB 165 would expand the current NID law to single and smaller multi family dwellings. The local NID cannot be formed unless 60% of the neighborhood agrees to belong and become assessed. Each person within the neighborhood has to be contacted by certified mail. Any plans brought forth by the NID would have to be approved by the municipalities' board or council. Estimated costs to a single property tax payer on a \$2000 property tax bill would be between \$5 & \$10 dollars.*

### Fiscal Effect:

*The Fiscal Estimate from DOR lists the cost as indeterminate. DOR has no oversight role regarding NIDs. Municipalities are not required to inform DOR that a NID has been formed. Therefore, it is not possible to reasonably estimate how AB 165 could affect the amount of NID special assessments or the time period they are collected.*

### Supporters Message:

- *This is a tool for local neighborhoods to band together to improve their own surroundings. Citizens will form their own NID board and decide how much to assess their own neighborhood for improvement. Taxpayers/citizens will have direct involvement.*

### Opponents Message:

- *Property taxes are already too high, AB 165 is broadly written and could have the capacity to get out of control very quickly with a municipal NID board assessing extra on property taxes where they saw fit.*
- *During the hearing much of the discussion was drawn toward using NID money for additional police presence in neighborhoods. Bill authors discussed hiring "off duty" police and paying over time for their services. At the hearing there was no one present from the law enforcement community, therefore they may have some concerns with this legislation.*
- *Who would be liable if the officer is injured while patrolling for the NID?*
- *Would officers be more interested in overtime watching a NID than working their shift?*

### Key Supporters:

Rep. Jon Richards. Rep. Josh Zepnick, Milwaukee Alderman Bob Donovan, Senator Tim Carpenter, Senator Jeff Plale & Ed Huck.

### Key Opponents:

*No one testified or registered against AB 165, and no one registered against it, the Realtors have a neutral stance with the Ethics Board.*

### Committee Vote:

On May 6, 2009 the Assembly Committee on Urban & Local Affairs held an Executive session and voted 6-2 (LeMahieu & Ziegelbauer voting No) to send the bill to rules.

### Ranking Member Author of Bill Summary

Jeff Grothman; Office of Rep. Dan LeMahieu (6-9175)