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SEN. JACQUE'S BIPARTISAN ELECTION WORKER PROTECTION ACT ADVANCES

Senate committee clears measure that keeps election officials safe in their important work

MADISON, WI... Legislation providing safeguards and protections for those hard-working people who make our elections run smoothly unanimously passed a Senate committee today.

State Sen. André Jacque (R-De Pere), co-author of the proposal with State Rep. Joy Goeben, said he was pleased by the strong bi-partisan support it enjoys from both legislators and county clerks from across Wisconsin.

“Free, fair, and peaceful elections are the bedrock of representative government,” Sen. Jacque said. “Voters who participate in our elections should expect these guarantees, as should those who work at the polls.”

Sen. Jacque said he developed the legislation after the events of the past few years and discussions with local clerks and poll workers. Provisions of the bill include:

- “Election official” means an individual who is charged with any duties relating to the conduct of an election;
- The bill prohibits the disclosure of personally identifiable information of election officials or election registration officials;
- Under the measure, it is a Class I felony to intentionally cause bodily harm to an election official acting in that person’s official capacity, simply trying to do their job the best they can; and
- The legislation provides whistleblower protection to an election official’s employment if the election official lawfully reports what he or she believes are election irregularities.

“Extending these protections to our public-minded friends and neighbors striving to perform their civic duty is not a partisan issue,” Sen. Jacque said. “Working at the polls should be as safe as it is rewarding to participate in the elections process.”

The bill ([Senate Bill 291](#)) passed the Senate Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection in a unanimous 5-0. It must next clear the full Senate and Assembly, and be signed by the Governor, to become law.

Senator André Jacque represents Northeast Wisconsin’s First Senate District, consisting of Door and Kewaunee Counties and portions of Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc, and Outagamie counties.

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