



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Senate Passes Bill to Return Excess Stadium Tax

Senate Passes Bill to Return Millions of Dollars to Brown County Taxpayers

Madison- Today, the state Senate passed a bill (SB 233) that will return over \$17 million in excess Lambeau Stadium sales tax revenue back to the taxpayers of Brown County. The bill, authored by State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) and State Senator Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay) provides a pathway for returning excess revenue that was collected through a 0.5% sales tax referendum passed in 2000. The sales tax was enacted for the purposes of renovating and maintaining Lambeau Field.

“Today, the Senate’s passage of this bill puts us one step closer to ensuring that Brown County residents receive the timely and efficient return of their tax dollars. This one-time financial boost is structured in a way that will allow local governments to innovatively invest in their communities,” said Rep. Steffen. “I am eager to see this legislation move forward quickly to allow these exciting projects and initiatives to get underway.”

In March the Professional Football Stadium District and Department of Revenue certified that the bonds for the renovation project had been paid and that the maintenance fund was fully funded. This legislation ensures that excess sales tax collected between the certification date and the conclusion of the sales tax (September 30, 2015) will be returned to Brown County and its political subdivisions in a fair and responsible manner. Revenue can be used for the purposes of property tax relief, tax levy related debt relief, or economic development.

“Passage of this bill represents the completion of the agreement made between the state and the taxpayers of Brown County back in 2000,” Cowles said. “I’m pleased to have worked with Rep. Steffen and the stakeholders to return this money in a fair manner to the hard-working taxpayers in communities within Brown County.”

The bill is now available to be heard before the full Assembly, which is scheduled to be in session next week. Rep. Steffen anticipates that the bill will be signed into law and excess revenue will be returned to Brown County and its subdivisions within the year.

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