



STATE SENATOR  
**Eric Wimberger**  
DISTRICT 2

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Wimberger Unveils E-Verify Bill to Protect Wisconsin Workers**

*Legislation Would Require Federal Verification of Citizenship Status for State Workers, Contract Work*

MADISON – Senator Eric Wimberger (R-Oconto) released the following statement after [introducing LRB-0512](#), a bill that would require the State of Wisconsin and contractors with contracts totaling \$50,000 or more to use the federal E-Verify program to ensure workers are legally eligible for their positions:

*“Congress failed to address a gap in our immigration law by making E-Verify use optional, rather than mandatory. This means employers are not required to check their workers’ employment status beyond filling out an I-9 hiring form. Because of this, bad actors can plausibly deny their exploitation of illegally-hired cheap immigrant labor, since the law does not compel them to do anything beyond the bare minimum to confirm the employment status of their workers.*

***By requiring E-Verify, Wisconsin will ensure it does not participate in abusive labor practices that take advantage of illegal aliens, depress wages for union and non-union labor, and attract human trafficking.***

*Governor Evers expressed concern recently that he might be accused of violating federal immigration law. This bill should ease his concerns, since employees and contractors will need to be pre-screened to be lawfully employed.”*

Administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the E-Verify program has been an important tool used by many states to reduce instances of identity theft and fraud in the workplace. E-Verify cross-checks information from an employee’s I-9 with Homeland Security and Social Security records to ensure employment eligibility. LRB-0512 would require that the State of Wisconsin, and any contract project valued at \$50,000 or more, use E-Verify to certify their employees’ statuses, bringing Wisconsin statutes in line with Midwestern neighbors such as Minnesota, Indiana, and Pennsylvania.

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*State Senator Eric Wimberger is a former Marine Captain, attorney, and small business owner. He serves as a member of the Joint Committee on Finance and Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. He represents the 2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District, including parts of Brown, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, and Waupaca Counties.*

A media kit for Senator Wimberger can be found [here](#).