

14 September 2023 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Sen. Eric Wimberger (608) 266-5670

Senate Passes Bills Addressing Sexual Assault in the National Guard

Bills Increase Transparency, Accountability and Prevention

Madison, WI — State Senator Eric Wimberger (R-Green Bay) joined his Senate colleagues today in supporting three bills put forward by the Legislative Council Study Committee on Wisconsin National Guard Sexual Misconduct Procedures. Senator Wimberger served as vice-chair of the committee last summer.

This study committee was formed to address identified deficiencies in Wisconsin National Guard policies relating to their handling of allegations of sexual assault and harassment.

"Men and women who choose to serve in the Wisconsin National Guard deserve to feel safe addressing any type of sexual assault or harassment," said Wimberger. "The legislation increases transparency and accountability and ensures that the Guard is doing all it can to prevent and address sexual assault."

The bill package includes:

- <u>Senate Bill 166:</u> Makes various changes to the Wisconsin Code of Military Justice to clarify court procedures and ensure fair treatment of victims.
- <u>Senate Bill 167:</u> Requires the Adjutant General to submit a publically available annual report to the governor and legislature on several topics relating to sexual assault and harassment claims made by members of the National Guard.
- <u>Senate Bill 168:</u> Establishes and maintains a case management system to track information related to misconduct cases within the National Guard.

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Senator Eric Wimberger represents the 30th Senate District, which includes parts of Brown, Oconto, and Marinette Counties.