



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR
TIM CARPENTER
SENATOR – 3RD DISTRICT

State Capitol • PO Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882 • Phone: (608) 266-8535

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Contact:
State Senator Tim Carpenter
(608) 266-8535

Bill to Protect Domestic Abuse Victims Closer to Becoming Law
Legislation would allow restraining orders to include victim's pets.

Madison – Today State Senator Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) thanked his colleagues on the Assembly Judiciary Committee for unanimously passing a bill (AB 141) to allow restraining orders to include victim's pets.

Senator Carpenter co-authored this legislation with Rep. André Jacque (R-DePere) in order to help victims of domestic violence by taking away leverage that the perpetrators can hold over a victim by threatening harm to a victim's pet.

The senate companion to this bill has already passed the Senate (SB 97).

Under current law, a victim of abuse, harassment, or threats may obtain a temporary restraining order against the perpetrator. This bill will allow a court to include in any such restraining order a provision pertaining to household pets. For example, the court could order that the perpetrator refrain from removing, harming, mistreating, or disposing of a household pet.

If passed by the full Assembly and enacted into law this will allow Wisconsin to join 28 other states that help protect victims of domestic abuse and other violence by shielding their pets from harm.

Senator Carpenter's press releases are available for review at
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/sen03/news>

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