



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 19, 2025

CONTACT:

Senator Howard Marklein, 608-266-0703, Sen.Marklein@legis.wi.gov

Representative Tony Kurtz, 608-237-9141, Rep.Kurtz@legis.wi.gov

Marklein, Kurtz Circulate Legislation to Continue Support of Local EMS

Package provides significant resources and additional tools for Wisconsin's EMS system

Madison, WI – Today, Sen. Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) and Rep. Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) circulated a package of legislation which will provide significant resources and additional tools to support Wisconsin's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System.

The bills support local EMS personnel and departments by providing funding to reimburse volunteers for the cost of their initial training classes, requiring an annual report on changes to the state and national EMS scope of practice and the impact of these changes on training hours, and increasing the Medicaid reimbursement rate for "treat, no-transport" calls.

"One of the biggest challenges facing our local EMS departments is the recruitment and retention of first responders," Sen. Marklein and Rep. Kurtz said. "We have worked hard to reduce barriers, provide flexibility, and support our local EMS personnel and departments. While there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to solving this issue, this legislation is another step in the right direction."

The bills also provide additional flexibility to local units of government and support to the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS). The bill package creates a "Regional EMS System" levy limit exemption to encourage intergovernmental cooperation and provides \$7 million annually to the WTCS to support its EMS education programming.

"I hope that local units of governments take advantage of the new "Regional EMS System" levy limit exemption and work together to keep Wisconsin's EMS system strong," Sen. Marklein and Rep. Kurtz continued. "The Tech College System does a great job teaching our EMS personnel and this additional funding will ensure continued success into the future."

The bills are currently circulating in the legislature for co-sponsorship. Sen. Marklein and Rep. Kurtz will formally introduce the bills in the coming weeks and look forward to their swift consideration.

###