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CONTACT: Rep. Dianne Hesselbein 608-266-5340

**HESELBEIN STREAMLINES GOVERNMENT – PAINLESSLY**  
**Her bill wins floor vote, eliminates obsolete tax committee**

Rep. Dianne Hesselbein today won an Assembly floor vote to eliminate a joint committee of the Legislature.

She argued that the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions should be eliminated because its work is now handled by legislative staff professionals.

“It’s a pleasure to downsize government without doing any harm,” said Hesselbein (D-Middleton.) “Eliminating this obsolete committee will save time and public resources.”

The survey committee was created in 1963, to assess the legality, cost, and “desirability” of bills containing tax exemptions. Its nine members include six legislators and representatives of the governor, the secretary of revenue, and the attorney general.

“A few meetings ago, those of us on the committee asked ourselves, ‘Why are these meetings necessary? What are we doing here?’” Hesselbein said. “We concluded that we were basically endorsing the hard work of the competent legal professionals of the Legislative Council, Reference Bureau, and Fiscal Bureau. They – not we -- were doing the work required by law, analyzing the legality of bills and their fiscal effect, and compiling a report. Our only job was to sign off.

“Suddenly we saw an opportunity to save legislator and staff time, eliminate meetings and paperwork, and make the legislative process more efficient.”

Hesselbein’s Assembly version has bipartisan support. Its Senate companion, SB502, is sponsored by Sen. Devin Le Mahieu (R-Oostburg.)