



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bill Protecting Victims of Harassment Passes Senate

Today, the Wisconsin State Senate unanimously passed a bill authored by Senator Jerry Petrowski (*R-Marathon*) and Representative Adam Neylon (*R-Pewaukee*) that puts measures into place to protect victims against stalking and harassment.

“As tracking technology becomes easier to obtain, it is important to protect the privacy of our citizens,” said Senator Petrowski. “This bill helps to empower victims of stalking by providing a way to pursue action against their aggressors.”

The bill establishes a penalty for an individual who places a GPS device on another person’s vehicle or uses a GPS device to gain information about the person’s movements without consent. It has received the enthusiastic support of both the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the ACLU.

“I’m pleased the Senate unanimously approved the GPS Privacy Act today, taking a necessary step towards protecting potential victims of harassment. I’m hopeful the Assembly will concur next week, and the bill should be on Governor’s desk soon,” said Representative Neylon.

The bill contains an exception for law enforcement officers executing a warrant, ensuring that the bill will not constrain police acting in their official capacity. There are also exemptions for parents and guardians of wards, as well as employers or lienholders tracking vehicles that they own.

Following the inclusion of two technical amendments to the bill, the bill now returns to the Assembly where it is expected to be passed next week.

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