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2025-2026 Legislative Session
League Summary of Legislation of Municipal Importance

Bills Introduced March 17th to March 28th

- **Senate Bill (SB) 159: Requirements for Police Vehicle Lighting** - Sen. Wanggaard (R-Racine) and Rep. Jacobson (R-Mosinee) - Current law allows marked police vehicles to be equipped with flashing, oscillating, or rotating blue and red lights, provided that the blue lights are mounted on the passenger side and the red lights are mounted on the driver side of the vehicle. This legislation specifies that marked police vehicles with an exterior light bar on the roof and lights mounted inside the vehicle match those requirements for blue lights on the passenger side and red lights on the driver side of the vehicle. If the roof and interior lights are installed, a combination of blue and red lights may be mounted on the front, sides, or rear of a police vehicle.

- **SB 156: First Responder Training and Administration of Epinephrine Delivery Systems** - Sen. Testin (R-Stevens Point) and Rep. Krug (R-Rome) - This legislation requires that all first responders (which includes emergency medical responders, emergency medical services practitioners, firefighters, and law enforcement officers) are trained on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of severe allergic reactions and the procedures for administration of an epinephrine delivery system. The legislation also requires that each first responder always has an epinephrine delivery system available for use while on duty. Finally, the legislation allows the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to distribute epinephrine delivery systems to first responders that have completed the training requirements.

- **SB 155: Requiring Periodic Inspections of Parking Structures** - Sen. Tomczyk (R-Mosinee) and Rep. Maxey (R-New Berlin) - This legislation requires the owner of a parking structure to have a professional engineer inspect the structural integrity of the structure at least once every five years. A report containing the results of the inspection must be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) or to the local government if the local government is authorized to perform commercial building plan examinations. An owner that fails to complete an inspection within six months of the report being due may be fined $200 per month, and within twelve months of the due date, DSPS must close the parking structure until an inspection is completed.

- **SB 153: TAD Courts** - Sen. Jacque (R-New Franken) and Rep. Tittl (R-Manitowoc) - Currently, counties are authorized to apply for grants from the Wisconsin Department of Justice for Treatment and Diversion (TAD) Programs that offer alcohol and drug treatment services as alternatives to prosecution or incarceration in order to reduce recidivism, promote public safety, and reduce prison and jail populations. This legislation allows TAD Programs to provide treatment services for a person who has a mental illness along with substance abuse disorders.

- **SB 149: Legislative Actions if Federal Order Freeze Funding** - Sen. Larson (D-Milwaukee) and Rep. Phelps (D-Eau Claire) - This legislation requires the Wisconsin State Legislature to convene an extraordinary session if the President of the United States issues an executive order freezing federal aid to Wisconsin that was previously authorized by Congress. In the extraordinary session, a bill must be introduced that provides payments from the Budget Stabilization Fund (e.g., Rainy Day Fund) for the estimated amount of federal aid that each state agency, local government, and nonprofit organization fails to receive as a result of the executive order. If back payments are received after federal funds are no longer frozen, those payments must be provided to the Budget Stabilization Fund to the extent allowed under federal law.

Status of Bills with League Lobbying Positions

- **Senate Bill (SB) 128 / Assembly Bill (AB) 131: Programs and Policies to Address PFAS** - Sen. Wimberger (R-Oconto) and Reps. Mursau (R-Crivitz) and Swearingen (R-Rhinelander) - Similar to a bill supported by the League last session after working with the authors on an amendment to address municipal concerns, this legislation would exempt municipalities and certain other parties from liability for PFAS remediation under certain circumstances and conditions. The legislation also establishes a Municipal PFAS Grant Program to assist with capital and operational costs related to PFAS, exempts certain emergency water utility actions to address PFAS from Public Service Commission of Wisconsin approvals, and establishes other programs and policies related to PFAS. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Veteran and Military Affairs.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Environment.

- **SB 127 / AB 130: Liability Exemptions for PFAS Contamination** - Sen. Wimberger (R-Oconto) and Reps. Mursau (R-Crivitz) and Swearingen (R-Rhinelander) - This legislation mimics a portion of SB 128 relating to liability exemptions for PFAS remediation. This legislation, and the legislation above, would exempt farmers and other parties who spread PFAS-contaminated biosolids on a property, fire departments and airports that used PFAS-containing firefighting foam, landfills that accepted PFAS-laden waste, and those who own property where the PFAS contamination is present but didn't originate from liability. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Veteran and Military Affairs.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Environment.

- **SB 113 / AB 118: Transition to Grazing Pilot Program** - Sens. James (R-Thorp) and Testin (R-Stevens Point) and Reps. Novak (R-Dodgeville) and Tranel (R-Cuba City) - This legislation establishes a Transition to Grazing Pilot Program at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection to provide support and grants farmers who are implementing livestock forage-based managed grazing systems. Grants of up to $40,000 are available per project. The League is noting this legislation due to its potential to reduce nonpoint source water pollution in waterways throughout the state, including those running through Wisconsin cities and villages. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Revenue.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Agriculture.

- **SB 64 / AB 61: Penalties for Harm to Police and Fire Dogs** - Sen. Wanggaard (R-Racine) and Rep. Nedweski (R-Pleasant Prairie) - This legislation increases the criminal penalties associated with injuring or killing any animal used by a law enforcement department or fire department to perform official duties. Penalties for actions taken resulting in injury to the animal are raised from a Class I to a Class H Felony, and actions taken resulting in the death of the animal are raised from a Class H to a Class G Felony. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status (UPCOMING ACTION):* The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety has scheduled a public hearing on this bill for Tuesday, April 1.
  - *Assembly Status:* The full Assembly passed the legislation on a voice vote on March 13.

- **SB 44 / AB 42: Prohibiting Chicken and Quail Bans** - Sen. Cabral-Guevara (R-Appleton) and Rep. Sortwell (R-Two Rivers) - This legislation prohibits cities, villages, towns, counties, and sewerage districts from prohibiting an owner or certain lessees of residential property from keeping four or fewer chickens or quail. While municipal officials could not prohibit what's often referred to as 'backyard chickens,' the proposal would allow local governments to require permits, require notification of adjacent landowners, impose regulations on fowl housing, prohibit the keeping of roosters, and impose cleanliness standards. *The League has registered **against** this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government.
  - *Assembly Status (RECENT ACTION):* The Assembly Committee on Local Government held a public hearing on this bill on Wednesday, March 19.

- **SB 37 / AB 41: Prohibiting Local Regulation of Gardens** - Sen. Jacque (R-New Franken) and Rep. Sortwell (R-Two Rivers) - This legislation prohibits cities, villages, towns, and counties from requiring a permit for or prohibiting the cultivation of vegetable or flower gardens on property not owned by the local government. Municipal officials would retain the power to control the spread of noxious weeds or invasive species. *The League has registered **against** this legislation.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government.
  - *Assembly Status (RECENT ACTION):* The Assembly Committee on Local Government held a public hearing on this bill on Wednesday, March 19.

- **SB 34 / AB 35: Allowing Candidates for Certain Offices to Withdrawal Candidacy** - Sen. Wanggaard (R-Racine) and Rep. Steffen (R-Howard) - This legislation allows independent candidates for president and vice president and candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, the state senate, and the state assembly to withdrawal their candidacy at certain timelines prescribed in the bill. These deadlines include before June 10th preceding the partisan primary or before the 4th Tuesday in August preceding the general election, which align with the final deadlines for the state to certify and report candidates for these offices to local clerks. This bill only impacts the offices listed and does not make changes to the processes for other offices, including local elected offices. *The League has registered as **neutral** on this legislation and is working with the authors to move the withdrawal deadlines back to more easily allow clerks to meet ballot printing deadlines.*
  - *Senate Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Licensing, Regulatory Reform, State and Federal Affairs.
  - *Assembly Status:* The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Campaigns and Elections.

- **SB 26 / AB 21: Technical College Facility Lease to Childcare Centers** - Sen. Feyen (R-Fond Du Lac) and Rep. O'Connor (R-Fond Du Lac) - Under current law, technical colleges may rent unneeded space in their facilities to other entities. However, since 1999, they may not rent space to others for school purposes. This legislation creates an exemption to that prohibition for the lease of technical college facilities to childcare centers. With 52 campuses across the state, this

legislation could be one tool in the toolbox that helps to address the shortage of childcare slots in Wisconsin. *The League has registered **in-favor** of this legislation.*

- *Senate Status:* The Senate Committee on Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, Children and Families recommended the bill for passage on a 5-0 vote on February 13.
- *Assembly Status:* The Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities held a public hearing on the bill on February 20.