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Court Fees, 10 Other Bills Pass in January Floorperiod *League Legislative Bulletin - January 26, 2026*

The Legislature concluded their January floorperiod last Thursday, bringing us one step closer to the end of the 2025-2026 Legislative Session. Over this two week stretch where the Assembly convened four times and the Senate met once, 12 bills with League lobbying positions were brought to the floor of either chamber. This includes nine bills the League supports and three bills we oppose.

Among the highlights were two bills that made our 2026 priorities list (which may be viewed in the [December 22nd edition](#) of the Legislative Bulletin). [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 320](#) and [AB 443](#) both propose increasing the current maximum municipal court fees that may be assessed. These fees have not been raised in over a decade, meaning the 219 municipal courts have seen increasing general fund investments to sustain basic operations.

Increasing these court fees consistent with inflation will ensure that municipal courts can continue serving their residents while the users of these systems will be responsible for their costs. Both AB 320 and AB 443 received bipartisan support on the floor of the Assembly. Thank you to the authors, Representatives Allen (R-Waukesha) and Kaufert (R-Neenah), and to all the co-sponsors for supporting these important initiatives!

Also on the floor of the Assembly were two bills that would extend the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for two more years. Without legislative action, the Stewardship Program will lapse, ending 36 years of promoting outdoor recreation and conservation of natural spaces across Wisconsin. This includes the popular [Local Units of Government \(LUG\)](#) and [Recreational Boating Aids](#) Subprograms that are frequently used by municipalities.

[ABs 315](#) and [612](#) would ensure that Stewardship continues into the next biennium, extending the program from its current end date of June 30, 2026 to a new date of June 30, 2028 to allow for further consideration and extension in the next state budget.

As passed by the Assembly, funding to the LUG Subprogram would increase from \$9.25 million to \$11.25 million annually while the Recreational Boating Aids Subprogram would remain at \$3.0 million.

Thank you to the author, Representative Kurtz (R-Wonewoc), and all the co-sponsors for your continued support of expanding outdoor recreation opportunities in communities throughout the state! Though the Assembly has now passed the Stewardship reauthorization, the Senate still must act to extend this program for two years. The bills are in the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Sporting Heritage which is yet to hold a public hearing.

These are just four of the nine bills the League supports that passed at least one chamber of the Legislature in the January floorperiod. A full listing of actions on the floor may be viewed in the most recent Summary of League Lobbying Positions found [here](#).

While many good bills passed this month, some bad bills also advanced. This includes legislation to require that wheel taxes, both existing and new, must pass by referendum. [Senate Bill \(SB\) 467](#) only proposes this requirement on local governments, not state government which has also recently passed increases to transportation fees. Another bill, [AB 502](#), would largely overturn the effect of local ordinances regulating outdoor advertising signs.

Currently, it's expected that the Assembly will adjourn on Thursday, February 19th while the Senate will continue its work into mid-March. The next legislative floorperiod kicks off on Tuesday, February 10th and continues to the 19th. The Assembly is expected to be in session four times in this two-week period and the Senate is expected to convene once. Our February 9th edition of the Legislative Bulletin will preview this floorperiod.