

Legislative Update as of May 26, 2010

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Note the State Legislature Session ended on Thursday, April 22, 2010. Here are some bills of interest to towns and villages and the status of the bill.

1. AB 260, reversal of Wood v. City of Madison, bill prohibits city or village from denying plats in extraterritorial area based on land use ***Passed both houses and Governor signed as Act 399.***
2. SB 172 requires unanimous annexations to be “contiguous” to city or village, the bills were amended to take out Section 2 giving town legal standing, to obtain agreement of League of Wisconsin Municipalities and Alliance of Cities support for passage. ***Passed both houses and Governor signed as Act 366.***
3. SB 601 revisions to comprehensive planning law (Sec. 66.1001 of Wis. Statutes) as follows:
 - a. Defines “Consistent with” means furthers or does not contradict the objectives, goals, and policies contained in the comprehensive plan.
 - b. Delays the deadline for “consistency” with comprehensive plans for zoning, subdivision, or official maps for those local governments who have received planning grants to Dept. of Administration, to no later than January 1, 2012 upon petition to and approval by DOA
 - c. States that “the enactment of a comprehensive plan by ordinance does not make the comprehensive plan by itself a regulation.
 - d. Provides that a town board without village powers may adopt a comprehensive plan. {Note that adoption of a comprehensive plan does not mean the town may have a town zoning ordinance, subdivision ordinance, or official map without village powers. Town board is still required to follow zoning procedures under Sec. 60.62 of Wis. Statutes including a vote of electors to approve adoption of a zoning ordinance. This provision protects towns without village powers who adopt a town plan to exercise the veto provisions under county zoning in Sec. 59.69 (5) of Wis. Statutes. ***SB 601 passed both houses and Governor signed as Act 372.***
4. SB 276 provides if municipality has website it may be used as legal posting. ***Failed to pass both houses in same form, thus bill dies.***
5. AB 895 and SB 640 Election law reforms, called the “Voter Protection Act” by supporters; provides for changes in absentee voting, including establishing a permanent absentee voter list; no changes in current law for time of in-person voting at 5:00 p.m. day before election in clerk’s office. ***No votes taken on the floor in either house thus bills die.***
6. AB 649 and SB 450 Clean Energy Jobs bill various provisions from original bill were to be deleted, final version not available in both houses ***No votes taken on the floor in either house thus bills die.***

7. AB 844 and SB620 Groundwater proposal final versions not available. ***No votes taken on the floor in either house thus bills die.***

8. Regional Transportation Authorities, bills to create RTA in Southeast Wisconsin and Fox Cities introduced but not acted upon at this time. ***No votes taken on the floor in either house thus bills die.***

9. SB 442 requires local units of government to use Quality Based Selection for architects, engineers, and bridge inspectors for contracts over \$250,000. ***No votes taken on the floor in either house thus bill die.***

10. SB 626 provides platting law changes. ***Passed both houses awaiting Governor signature.***

11. AB 829 provides for change to prevailing wage law threshold back to \$234,000 for multi trade projects as was before the state budget passed last year. ***No committee hearings held and no votes taken, thus bill dies.***

12. SB 557 provides for wetland confirmation process by DNR and notice requirement from local governments on permits. ***Passed both houses awaiting Governor's signature.***

13. NR 151 Nonpoint rule revisions in progress ***Expect DNR staff to make revised recommendations to DNR board in June. Expect Standing Committees of Legislature to review in July and August.***

14. Livestock Facility Siting Standards may be reviewed by DATCP and expert panel ***DATCP board directed the reconvening of the expert panel on May 12, 2010.***