

## Legislative Update as of May 6, 2014

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### I. *Bills of WTA Legislative Priority*

- A. **General Transportation Aids** were set in State Budget 2013 Wis. Act 20
  - a. Per Mile for 2014 at \$2,117 and for 2015 at \$2,202
  - b. Local Road Improvement Program
    - i. TRIP for all towns in State distributed county by county--\$9.12 million
    - ii. TRI-D (Town Discretionary) \$11.475 million
  - c. Remember Statewide referendum on November election to change state constitution to require that transportation user fees be used only for transportation programs (Wisconsin Towns Association supports passage of this referendum)
- B. **2013 Wis. Act 193 (SB 338) Town TIF** bill authorizes towns who meet following criteria to have same Tax Incremental Finance authority as cities and villages:
  - a. Population over 3,500
  - b. Equalized value over \$500 million
  - c. TIF must be in sewer service area served by wastewater treatment plant
  - d. (Estimate about 75 towns over 3,500 in population but less with \$500 million of equalized value and not all of these towns have sewer service areas)
- C. **AB 128** bill to modify **local recall law** to require that recall petition may be filed only after town, village, city, or school officer has been charged with violation of a crime or state ethics law
  - a. Modeled after proposed change to state constitution for state officers
  - b. AB 128 passed State Assembly, failed to get vote in State Senate and has died
- D. **AB 661** bill to allow **towns to withdraw from county zoning**
  - a. Committee hearing held on Feb. 25, 2014, but no committee vote
  - b. AB 661 gained positive support from many State Assembly members, but lacked strong Senate support and has died
- E. **AB 122/SB 112** bills would **repeal the requirement** that the county shall include any city or village comprehensive plan in the county comprehensive plan “without change”
  - a. Committee hearing held on April 23, 2013; Committee vote 7 ayes and 1 nay on June 4, 2013 to recommend passage; No further action taken
  - b. Realtors, Builders, and several other groups opposed this bill

### II. Other legislative bills of significance that did not pass

- A. **SB 349/AB 476** would have **preempted local governments from adopting licensing ordinances** (using police powers under village powers authority in towns) of nonmetallic mining (including industrial sand mines); preempted other environmental permits; and proposed a required process for all road user agreements
  - a. Senate Committee hearing held October 24, 2013; no further action taken
  - b. WTA opposed this bill

- B. **SB 632/AB 816** would have codified existing limits (known as diminishing assets doctrine) and created new limits on the ability of counties, cities, villages, and towns to apply new or more restrictive ordinances to existing nonmetallic mining operations and property with registered nonmetallic mineral deposits and preempts the ability of these local units of government to regulate borrow sites and material disposal sites.
  - a. Public hearing held March 3, 2014; Committee Executive vote for passage on March 5, 2014 for passage, 3 ayes, 2 nays, bill has died
  - b. WTA opposed this bill
- C. **SB 697** (introduced on April 1, 2014) would have provided local governments could repeal comprehensive plans, and if no comprehensive plan had been adopted or the comprehensive plan had been repealed under this bill there would not be any “consistency” requirement for zoning, subdivision ordinances, or official maps

### III. Election law changes that did pass and were enacted into law

- A. **2013 Wis. Act 146** (SB 324) restricts early “**in-person absentee voting**” to weekdays (Monday through Friday) two weeks before an election to the hours of 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
  - a. First applies to elections held no earlier than 60 days after effective date of March 29, 2014.
  - b. Clerks may still designate persons to act as deputy clerks to handle “in-person absentee voting” in their place, but limited to the hours stated above
  - c. No other changes to absentee voting, electors may still make written request and mail in absentee ballots
- B. **2013 Wis. Act 147** (SB 20) provides **poll workers may reside anywhere in the county** (current law was that must be from municipality);
  - a. Chief inspector at each polling place must still be a qualified elector of the municipality
  - b. If political parties submit list of nominees, then the nominees must be appointed as poll workers
  - c. Change in law that political party lists may be submitted to presiding officer or the clerk or deliver or mail to the office of the municipality
  - d. Effective date, March 29, 2014, will first apply to next appointment of poll workers
- C. **2013 Wis. Act 148** (SB 377) relates to the **reporting of statistics** regarding postcard audits of **voter registrations made at the polling place on Election Day**, commonly referred to as “same day voter registration.”
  - a. Specific information must be reported to the county clerk and GAB at earliest practical time after, but no later than 90 days after each primary and election at which a state or national office filled or a statewide referendum is held
  - b. Effective date, January 1, 2016, except the act requires that report information for postcard audit of same day registrations must be made no later than 90 days after the 2014 general election, all other provisions effective Jan. 1, 2016
- D. **2013 Wis. Act 149** (SB 548) relates to **maintenance conducted on state voter registration list** by mailing notices to voters who have not voted within the past four years

- a. Responsibility for mailing postcards will be that of GAB no later than June 15 following each general election {Note GAB has been doing mailing for local clerks}
  - b. Voters who receive notice but fail to apply for continuation of registration will have status changed from eligible to ineligible on the registration list 30 days after notices are mailed
- E. **2013 Wis. Act 159** (AB 396) modifies procedure for absentee voting using **special voting deputies (SVDs)** at nursing homes, adult family homes, etc.
- F. **2013 Wis. Act 160** (AB 420) requires that each individual who signs a **nomination paper or petition** also legibly print his or her name in a spaced provided next to the signature (Effective March 29, 2014)
- G. **2013 Wis. Act 177** (AB 202) relates to **election observers at polling places**
- a. Chief inspector and municipal clerk must designate an “observation area” for election observers that is “not less than 3 feet from nor more than 8 feet from” the table where voters announce their name and address to be issued a voter number or the table where voters must register
  - b. Additionally the act requires an election observer must print his or her name, sign and date a log maintained at the polling place
- H. **2013 Wis. 178** (AB 419) relates to **counting votes for write-in candidates**
- a. Basically will only have to count write-in votes for candidates who have filed registration statements
  - b. If a candidate certified to appear on the ballot dies or withdraws before the election, all write-in votes shall be counted
- I. **2013 Wis. 179** (SB 262) relates to manner in which election officials must **label a duplicate ballot** that is made to replace a damaged or overvoted ballot
- J. **2013 Wis. 180** (SB 264) provides that ballots must be **secured in a ballot container** by the chief inspector, and, if available, one other poll worker whose party affiliation is different than the chief inspector’s party affiliation
- K. **2013 Wis. 181** (SB 265) provides that whenever two or more poll workers are required to perform a function within a polling place and both parties have submitted nominees, then the chief inspector must assign, insofar as practicable, an equal number of poll workers from the nominees of each party.
- a. The Act further provides that a person submitting nominees on behalf of a political party must certify that the person has contacted each nominee on the list and that the nominees have agreed to serve as poll workers
  - b. Effective April 4, 2014
- L. **2013 Wis. Act 182** (SB 267) requires that all voters, except a military or overseas voter, must provide **proof of residence when registering**. {Current law had only required proof of residence when registering, if after the close of third Wednesday preceding an election}.
- a. The Act further provides that the clerk or individual authorized to accept a voter registration form to record the type of document submitted as proof of residence and further details about the document
  - b. The GAB will be required under this Act to list the document by type and other information for proof of residence on the statewide voter registration list

**IV. Other bills and laws signed (or expected to be signed into law) of interest to towns and villages (these bills that do not have an Act number as of April 9, 2014 are awaiting Governor's signature**

**A. 2013 Wis. Act 377 (SB 509) makes the following changes to Implements of Husbandry Law (IOHs):**

- a. Modifies the definition of "implement of husbandry" to have one definition
- b. Creates a definition for a new class of agricultural vehicles, termed "agricultural commercial vehicles" (Ag CMV's)
- c. Creates an increased weight limitation for all implements of husbandry and agricultural commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) that is approximately 15% higher than general statutory weight limitation for other vehicles (20,000 lbs. per axles means 23,000 lbs allowed, and on five axles or more 80,000 lbs. means 92,000 lbs.)
- d. Exempts from weight and width requirements certain IOHs being operated as follows:
  - i. Incidental use from farm to field and back within ½ mile
  - ii. IOHs being transported between a farm and implement dealer within 75 miles of the implement dealer's location
- e. Creates a new "no-fee permit" issued by DOT and local authorities for IOHs and Ag CMVs that may be permitted by state or local authorities to exceed statutory weight limits (plus the 15% allowance) and length limitations
- f. Modifies length, width, and height limitations on IOHs
  - i. No limit on height for IOH, but the operator remains responsible for ensuring clearance of all bridges and utility lines that are constructed to proper height
  - ii. Length limits changed for single, two- and three vehicle combinations to single 45 feet to 60 feet; two-vehicle combinations from 70 ft. to 100 ft.; and three-vehicle combinations can go up to 70 ft. (Three vehicle combinations may go up to 100 feet if operated below 25 mph).
  - iii. May exceed width limitations by no-fee permit
  - iv. New lighting and reflective tape requirements for wider IOHs
    1. Escort vehicles required for IOHs in excess of 22 feet in width
- g. Assembly Amendment 1 made following changes to bill as passed by Senate
  - i. Exempts Category II (self propelled combines; forage harvesters; fertilizer or pesticide applicators, but not including manure application equipment; towed tillage, planting, and cultivation equipment and its towing power unit, and any other self-propelled vehicle that directly engages in harvesting farm products directly applies fertilizer, spray, or seeds but not manure or distributes feed to livestock) from per axle limits of 20,000 lbs. plus 15% allowance, unless the local jurisdiction "opts-in" before January 15<sup>th</sup> of any year, starting in January 15, 2015

1. Local jurisdiction can “opt-in” by resolution or ordinance for applying axle limits (thus eliminating the exemption) for these Category II IOHs (Resolution or ordinance may be for one year or longer as established by the local jurisdiction)
  2. Copy of resolution or ordinance must be forwarded to DOT.
  3. DOT will maintain state website of which local jurisdictions have “opted in” to enforce per axle limitations to Category II
- h. If a local jurisdiction denies a “no-fee permit” to exceed weight limits for a Category II vehicle as described above, the denial must be in writing and state reasons related to the structural condition of the highway or highways as requested on the application for the “no-fee permit”
- i. Local jurisdiction must identify an alternative route for these Category II vehicles that the IOHs may be operated on in excess of statutory weight limits plus 15% allowance (Note this alternative route may be on another jurisdiction’s highway for which the first jurisdiction must gain approval for use by these specific IOHs).
- i. Bill as amended provides that information on application for no fee permit is not open to public inspection and thus an exception to Public Records law
- j. Bill provides that Wisconsin State Patrol is prohibited from issuing citations for violations of weight, length or width requirements in calendar year 2014 on Category II IOHs as described above (note no limitation on local enforcement by county sheriffs)
- k. Local jurisdictions must decide upon “no-fee permit applications” within three weeks of receipt or presumed granted, if no decision within six weeks of application, presumed granted for the year
- l. Assembly Amendment as passed by both houses sunsets no-fee permit and 15% allowance on January 1, 2020
- m. DOT to develop statewide standard “no-fee permit application” and “permit” form within 30 days of effective date of bill (no-fee permit system starts January, 2015)
- n. Please note extensive training to be done this summer by WTA, farm groups and UW Extension on this new law....

**B. Other Highway Related acts or bills...**

- a. **2013 Wis. Act 152 (SB 643)** {Law Revision Bill} codifies the holding of the *Town of Madison v. County of Dane*, 311 Wis. 2d 402, (2008) that determined that county bridge or culvert aid program applies only to” highways in existence at the time of a town bridge or culvert construction.”
  - i. Under this holding and Act counties are required to share costs only for bridges or culverts that are either located on a town highway that is currently in existence or will be connected to a town highway by completion of the construction
  - ii. Act 152 clarifies holding of the Wis. Supreme Court in *Town of Madison* case
- b. **2013 Wis. Act 316 (AB 743)** provides ATV or UTV may operate on bridges that are 1,000 feet in length or less, even if highway has not been designated as ATV or UTV route

- i. Municipality or county must adopt an ordinance to authorize such operation on bridges (copies sent to state patrol and other law enforcement having jurisdiction)
- ii. Operation to be only to cross in most direct manner, and at a place where no obstruction prevents quick and safe crossing
- c. **2013 Wis. Act 217 (SB 574)** provides that during an energy emergency, the Wisconsin DOT, after consultation with DOA, may authorize vehicles that have a gross weight of 26,000 lbs. or less and that are transporting propane or heating oil for delivery to residences, business, or other end users to exceed posted special and seasonal weight limit, under Sec. 349.16, that have been imposed in connection with the thawing of frozen highways.
  - i. A person operating under this authorization must, to the extent practicable, deliver propane or heating oil at times of the day when the highways used are the least vulnerable

**C. Property Tax Assessment and Exemption Issues....**

- a. **2013 Wis. Act 228 (SB 414)** makes several changes to process for challenging property tax assessment, including the following:
  - i. Require that notice of changed assessment (Sec. 70.365) be sent to the property owner at least 30 days before the meeting of the Board of Review (BOR) in the year of a revaluation (In maintenance years the current 15 day notice of changed assessment remains in place.)
  - ii. Permit the BOR to allow a property owner to appear by telephone or to submit written statements regarding his or her objection to a property tax assessment, under oath, instead of appearing at BOR
  - iii. Permit the BOR to postpone and reschedule a hearing as it relates to a property once per session, at the request of the property owner
  - iv. Allow the BOR, at the request of the taxpayer or the assessor, or at its own discretion, to waive the hearing before the BOR of an objection for a particular property and allow the taxpayer to have assessment reviewed in circuit court
  - v. Effective date of these changes January 1, 2015
- b. **2013 Wis. Act 144 (SB 577)** creates a personal property tax exemption for rented personal property rented for periods of 364 days or less, if the property is not rented with an operator, if the property is heavy equipment used for construction, mining or forestry, including bulldozers, earthmoving equipment, well-drilling machinery and equipment, or cranes and if the owner of the property is classified under Sec. 532414 of the North American Industry Classification System
  - i. Act specifically states this first applies to property tax assessments as of January 1, 2014
  - ii. Sec. 532414 of NAIC system is “Construction, Mining and Forestry Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing”
- c. **2013 Wis. Act 380 (SB 499)** provides a property tax exemption for certain land and personal property owned or leased by a nonprofit youth baseball association (not exceeding six acres)
  - i. Effective date of exemption is January 1, 2015

- d. **2013 Wis. Act 282 (SB 299)** provides that a town located on Madeline Island (Town of LaPointe) is exempt from (1) the county property tax related to operating or maintaining or providing services to, an airport; (2) for public health or economic development services, if the town levies a tax for the same purposes in an amount proportionate to the county levy for those purposes

**D. Land use bills, environmental and related issues....**

- a. **2013 Wis. Act 74 (SB 314)** freezes local regulation relating to land development as applied to a specific project, at the time that the person proposing the project first applies for a local approval for the project.
  - i. Act 74 defines “approval” as “a permit or authorization for building, zoning, driveway, stormwater, or other activity related to land development.”
  - ii. Under the Act, an application for an approval expires not less than 60 days after filing if all of the following apply:
    - 1. The application does not comply with form and content requirements.
    - 2. The political subdivision has, not more than 10 working days after the filing, provided the applicant a written notice of noncompliance. The notice must specify the defects in the application and notify the applicant of the date on which the application will expire if the defects are not remedied.
    - 3. The applicant fails to remedy the defects by the specified date.
  - iii. Act 74 first applied to an application for an approval filed on the effective date of the Act, December 14, 2013.
- b. **2013 Wis. Act 80 (SB 183)** modifies shoreland zoning law applicable to shoreland that is annexed or that is part of land incorporated as a city or village
  - i. Act 80 repeals the requirement that specified that shoreland annexed into a city or village or incorporated in a city or village must continue to enforce county shoreland zoning ordinance at time of annexation or incorporation
  - ii. Act 80 requires that cities and villages to enact shoreland zoning ordinances, by July 1, 2014, that apply to shoreland annexed by a city or village after May 7, 1982, and any shoreland area that was subject to a county shoreland zoning ordinance prior to being incorporated as a city or village
  - iii. Minimum requirements of city or village shoreland ordinance for shoreland annexed after May 7, 1982 or incorporated
    - 1. Shoreland setback to be at least 50 feet from ordinary highwater mark; but may have a setback for principal buildings in shoreland that is the same as immediately adjacent building on each side of the land on which a principal building is being constructed or 35 feet, whichever is greater
    - 2. Must require that for shoreland with vegetation that vegetative buffer zone must be maintained 35 feet back from ordinary highwater mark

3. May allow a viewing or access corridor in vegetative buffer zone that is no greater than 30 feet wide for every 100 feet of shoreline
- c. **2013 Wis. Act 280 (AB 835)** limits the security a town or municipality may require as a condition of plat approval to ensure certain public improvements are made
    - i. Under this bill the subdivider may choose whether to satisfy a requirement for security of public improvements as a condition of plat approval with a performance bond or a letter of credit
    - ii. Additionally, under the bill, upon substantial completion of required public improvements, an approving authority may not require a subdivider to maintain security in an amount that is more than the total cost to complete the public improvements that are not completed plus 10% of the total cost of the completed public improvement and may not require the subdivider to maintain security for more than 12 months from the date the public improvements are substantially completed
    - iii. The bill defines “substantially completed” as when the binder coat is installed on roads to be dedicated, or in a case of where not roads are to be dedicated, when 90 % of the public improvements by cost are completed.
  - d. **2013 Wis. Act 287(AB 512)** specifies that a town located in a specifically described county (which at current time is only Waukesha County) cannot adopt or amend a zoning ordinance without county board approval
    - i. This bill is an agreed upon bill by towns in Waukesha County and Waukesha County officials that if a town in Waukesha County adopts a zoning ordinance, even if the county does not have a county zoning ordinance the town zoning must still be approved by county board
    - ii. Intent is to allow county approval in the event county repeals county zoning ordinance in future, creates Sec. 60.62 (3)(b) only for the described county (Waukesha)
  - e. **2013 Wis. Act 272 (SB 502)** bill allows division of land zoned for commercial, industrial, or mixed-use development, not to land zoned residential uses, into more than four parcels by Certified Survey Map (CSM), instead of subdivision plat, if all of the following are true:
    - i. The municipality or county in which the land is located has established a planning agency
    - ii. The municipality or county adopts an ordinance or resolution allowing it to do so
    - iii. The municipality or county receives the recommendation of the planning agency and holds a public hearing before adopting the ordinance or resolution
    - iv. The ordinance or resolution specifies the maximum number of parcels into which land may be divided by CSM
    - v. Additional filing requirements of the CSM are listed under the bill

- f. **2013 Wis. Act 35 (SB 162)** amends prior law (Sec. 895.527 (4) of Wis. Statutes) to change the date from June 18, 2010 to July 16, 2013 to allow sport shooting ranges to continue its operation notwithstanding zoning ordinances, if at that time the operation was a legal use or a legal nonconforming use
- g. **2013 Wis. Act 202 (SB 527)** relates to liability and immunity of sport shooting ranges
  - i. The bill expands the provisions of current law relating to nuisance actions and zoning conditions related to noise to provide that a person who owns or operates a sport shooting range is not subject to a nuisance action or to any state or local zoning conditions or rules, including those related to noise or nonconforming use, and that no court may enjoin or restrain the operation or use of a sport shooting range on the basis of noise, nonconforming use, or any state or local zoning condition or rule
  - ii. The bill creates new provisions for expanded immunity from civil liability for sport shooting range owners, users and others
- h. **2013 Wis. Act 347 (AB 410)** provides that a licensed manufactured home community that is a legal nonconforming use continues to be a legal nonconforming use despite any replacement of homes, infrastructure repairs, or alteration to infrastructure or repair of homes in the legal nonconforming manufacture home community.
- i. **2013 Wis. Act 270 (SB 617)** creates a state ‘Building Code Council;’ and further limits municipal authority to enact ordinances that establish minimum standards for constructing, altering, or adding to public buildings or buildings that are places of employment unless the ordinance strictly conforms to the State Commercial Building Code, exceptions for ordinances that are not strict conformity with state code are any of the following:
  - i. Ordinance was enacted before May 1, 2013
  - ii. Ordinance was published pursuant to Sec. 60.80, 61.50, or 62.11 (4)
  - iii. Ordinance relates to fire detection, prevention, or suppression components of buildings
  - iv. Building is not a multifamily dwelling
  - v. Ordinance is submitted to department within 60 days after effective date of this act (not yet published as of April 9, 2014)
  - vi. The Department determines that the ordinance requires standards that are at least as strict as the rules promulgated by the department
- j. **2013 Wis. Act 378 (SB 547)** relates to regulation of phosphorus pollution by creating a statewide variance from wastewater discharge limits for phosphorus
  - i. The bill focuses on sources of phosphorus discharge that cannot meet current discharge limits without making major facility upgrades (aka ‘affected sources’)
  - ii. The bill makes a variance available to ‘affected sources’ if it is found that it is not feasible for those sources to meet current discharge limits without causing substantial and widespread adverse social and economic impacts on a statewide basis (referred to as “finding of infeasibility” in the bill)

- iii. An affected facility is eligible for a variance from its phosphorus discharge limits if it certifies that it cannot achieve compliance without a major facility upgrade
- iv. The variance consists of two principal elements:
  - 1. A schedule by which the affected source must, over 20 years come into compliance with its phosphorus discharge permits
  - 2. At the choice of the affected facility, one of the following mechanisms to accomplish reduction of phosphorus pollution from non-point sources in the watershed where the affected facility is located:
    - a. Make payments to a county in an amount equal to \$50 per pound of phosphorus discharge by the affected source in excess of the amount it would discharge if it met its discharge limit (the funds are to be used to reduce the phosphorus pollution in the same water basin as the affected facility) {Note cap of \$640,000 per year in payments by an affected facility}
    - b. Enter in to an agreement with DNR to implement such projects, itself
    - c. Enter in to an agreement with a third party to implement such projects
- k. **2013 Wis. Act 352 (SB 437)** increases the acreage that the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection may designate as Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) in state from 1 million to 2 million acres under the “Working Lands” (formerly known as Farmland Preservation Program)
  - i. Note that unless land is zoned farmland preservation zone under a certified town or county ordinance or under contract in a AEA the land owner is not eligible for any working lands tax credits (except for existing contracts will still be eligible until contracts run out)
  - ii. Tax credits of \$5 per acre if under contract in a AEA; \$7.50 per acre if under farmland preservation zoning; \$10.00 per acre if under both zoning and contract

**E. Alcohol License and related alcohol issues...**

- a. **2013 Wis. Act 268 (SB 250)** provides that if temporary Class “B” fermented license or temporary “Class B” wine license is issued to a fair association solely for the purpose of conducting on the licensed premises judging or tasting events of fermented beverages or wine (involving servings of no greater than one fluid ounce) the requirement to have a licensed operator on the premises does not apply
- b. **2013 Wis. Act 215 (SB 433)** prohibits municipalities from providing alcohol beverage retailers any device capable of scanning an official identification card
- c. **2013 Wis. Act 249 (SB 452)** bill creates an exception to the prohibition that a person who has not reached legal drinking age of 21 year of age (underage person) for an unaccompanied underage person to enter and remain in a

banquet or hospitality room on winery premises for the retail sale of alcohol beverages for the purpose of attending a winery tour

**F. Public Records changes (Remedial Legislation recommended by Joint Committee on Law Revision)**

- a. **2013 Wis. Act 171 (AB 567)** makes the following changes to the public records law:
  - i. Specifies that special purpose districts, such as school districts, technical college districts, and metropolitan sewerage districts, are covered by the law and creates a definition of “special purpose district.” It appears that these entities were covered under prior law, but this language clarifies that they are covered.
  - ii. Modifies the definition of “record” to include material that is electronically generated or stored data is recorded or preserved. The Act specifies that “record” includes any medium on which electronically generated or stored data is recorded or preserved.
  - iii. Applies the law to every elective official who is a custodian of records regardless of whether the official was elected to an office or appointed to fill a vacancy in an office.
  - iv. Clarifies that, if a record contains personally identifiable information relating to more than one individual, an individual has a right to inspect or copy only the portion of the record containing personally identifiable information relating to him or herself.
  - v. Modifies the definition of “person authorized by the individual” to clarify that it includes a person who is authorized in writing to act on behalf of another and is not limited to persons acting in situations involving a “right” to act on behalf of another person (e.g., a parent acting on behalf of a minor child).
  - vi. Substitutes the term “copying” for “photocopying” to allow for other forms of copying and removes references to “tapes” in order to recognize other modes of copying audio and visual material.
  - vii. Reorganizes and makes other changes to the provision relating to access to the names of final candidates for state positions or local public offices to improve clarity.
  - viii. Makes other technical changes.

**G. Other Miscellaneous Municipal law bills...**

- a. **2013 Wis. Act 222 (AB 598)** relating to changing the method for charging interest that may be charged on special assessments and creating an exception for local levy limits
  - i. The interest rate for special assessment shall be set by the governing body and may include an administrative fee of not more than 2% and may not be changed during the course of the installment payments for a particular special assessment

- ii. Under the act the levy limit does not apply to the amount that a political subdivision levies to make up any revenue shortfall for debt service on a special assessment B bond issued under Sec. 66.0713 (4)
- b. **2013 Wis. Act 274(SB 517)** relates to the collection of unpaid bills for utility service when the utility is owned by a municipality and the customer is a tenant
  - i. This bill modifies procedures the municipal utility must follow in collecting unpaid utility bills from tenants when the landlord given notice of the tenant and address and that the tenant is responsible for such bills and the landlord has requested notice of delinquencies
  - ii. Some additional provisions are changed in all cases regardless of whether property owner has requested notices and regardless of whether the municipal utility uses the tax lien procedure to collect unpaid charges