



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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DEMOCRATS: SENATE BILL 1 WILL BE HEARD

Pocan, Parisi and Pope-Roberts plan to pull SB 1 for a full Assembly vote Tuesday

Madison – Last Thursday, the Assembly Republican caucus voted in secret to kill meaningful ethics reform, despite six legislators who recently faced Capitol corruption charges. Tomorrow, three Dane County legislators - State Representatives Mark Pocan (D-Madison), Joe Parisi (D-Madison) and Sody Pope-Roberts (D-Verona) - intend to make a procedural motion to request a vote of the full Assembly on SB 1.

“Tomorrow may be the day that ethics reform lives or dies in Wisconsin. We intend to force a vote on Senate Bill 1 during Tuesday’s session,” said Pocan, referring to procedural tactics to keep this bill alive that may involve a filibuster if necessary. “Republicans are just wrong on ethics and election reform and this bill will not go down without a fight.”

According to press reports, the Assembly Republican caucus voted to kill the bill behind closed doors on Thursday. The final two meetings of the Assembly are expected to occur tomorrow and Thursday. Republicans still do not have a reform plan that cuts to the heart of the scandals surrounding the Capitol. The pulling motion the three Democrats plan to utilize would pull Senate Bill 1 out of the Assembly Committee on Rules and put the bill before the full Assembly for a vote. The Assembly Committee on Rules is run by Representative Mike Huebsch (R-West Salem) and Speaker John Gard (R-Peshtigo).

“We’re not going to stand by and watch the GOP kill this bill without even having an honest and open debate,” said Parisi.

The Senate overwhelmingly passed SB 1 on November 1, 2005 by a 28-5 margin and Governor Doyle pledged to sign the bill. Members of The People’s Legislature, a grassroots group of involved citizens, intends to have members on hand to support SB1 on Tuesday.

“I expect an overwhelming majority of citizens to support cleaning up their support for cleaning up our government,” said Pope-Roberts. “If the Republicans didn’t just want to continue business as usual, they’d realize that this is good public policy.”

Tomorrow’s legislative calendar currently does not include Senate Bill 1.