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Rep. Allen circulates bill requiring agencies to report fees

Rep. Scott Allen (R-Waukesha) is circulating legislation for co-sponsorship which would require state agencies to report on statutorily and administratively-required fees.

"There are more than 16,100 references to fees on the books, in both state statute and administrative code, and it does not appear they are tracked particularly well," said Rep. Allen. "For instance, the fee for a 'Wild ginseng harvest license issued to a resident' has been \$15 since 1997. Is that fee adequate for the state to recoup its costs, or unnecessarily burdensome on state residents?"

The legislation would require agencies to submit to the governor and legislature, along with biennial budget requests, a report which details each fee the agency is authorized to charge, along with the amount or method of calculation, an identification of statutory authority, whether the agency charges the fee, whether the fee has changed over time, and agency recommendations regarding the fee.

"The market and technology changes with more frequency than administrative rules or state statutes," said Rep. Allen. "A biennial evaluation of fees is a reasonable expectation of government. Fair fees benefit everyone."

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The 97th Assembly District includes portions of the City of Waukesha and the Towns of Waukesha, Genesee, and Mukwonago.