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## Loudenbeck Bills Signed Into Law

**Madison –** Yesterday, two bills authored by Representative Amy Loudenbeck (R-Clinton) were signed into law by Governor Tony Evers.

Act 133 authored with Senator Steve Nass (R-Whitewater) grants the same levy limit flexibility that exists currently for joint fire departments for the creation and operation of a joint emergency medical services (EMS) district. This would allow local municipalities to form a joint EMS district, without forming a joint fire department. The intent of the law is to allow communities to band together, when appropriate, to potentially provide a higher level of fire protection and/or emergency medical services at a lower cost than would be possible for them to provide on their own.

"Local communities are not only struggling to maintain adequate staff for fire and EMS services, they must also provide adequate resources for apparatus, tools, gear, training, fuel and other items needed to remain operational. In many cases cost-savings can be achieved by sharing high cost equipment and personnel among neighboring communities," said Loudenbeck. "I've already had communities in my district reach out about possibly using this as a way to improve care and reduce costs. I look forward to working with them to make that possible."

<u>Act 177</u> authored with Senator Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point) aims to improve surface water quality by allowing lake and river management grant funds to be used for the strategic placement of floating treatment wetlands (FTW) to improve surface water quality and remove excess phosphorus and other nutrients from Wisconsin waterways.

"Floating treatment wetlands are not new, or untested. The technology is passive but the impact is powerful. I hope water quality groups in the 31<sup>st</sup> Assembly District will consider FTW technology to reduce impacts of excess nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus in our local lakes and lagoons," said Loudenbeck.

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