



# Jeff Mursau

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 36<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Rep. Jeff Mursau (888) 534-0036

March 3, 2020

### *Three Additional Mursau Bills Signed Into Law* *Governor Vetoes Paddlewheel Raffle bill*

**Madison** ... Three bills introduced by State Representative Jeff Mursau (R–Crivitz) were signed into law by Governor Evers today at a bill signing ceremony at the State Capitol. A fourth bill co-authored by Mursau related to Paddlewheel raffles was vetoed by the Governor.

“All of these bills impact our local communities and were overwhelming supported by my constituents,” expressed Mursau. “I’m proud of the work we did on these bills and I’m happy they were signed into law by the Governor.”

Assembly Bill 607 will fully fund the Length of Service Program, which was enacted in 1999 and provides a tax-deferred benefit to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders at the time of their retirement. The program currently operates on a 2:1 match, with one-third coming from the local department and the other 2/3rds is contributed from the state. The program is currently underfunded so volunteers were receiving prorated benefits.

Senate Bill 298 requires the Department of Natural Resources to include information on Lyme disease and how to prevent tick bites in state park brochures. The bill also directs the department to conduct a Lyme disease awareness campaign during the month of May.

Assembly Bill 472, co-authored by Representative Mursau, allows two or more communities to form a Joint Emergency Medical Services District and qualify for the levy limit exemption, which is currently allowed for Joint Fire Departments. This flexibility will present greater opportunities for communities to consolidate critical services for the areas they serve.

Governor Evers vetoed Senate Bill 43 that would allow charitable organizations holding a Class B Raffle License to host paddlewheel raffles. Paddlewheel raffles are a popular way for many non-profits, lake associations, local police and EMS departments to raise money for its causes or necessary equipment. Without this change in statute, these organizations risk a Class I felony charge.

“I’m deeply disappointed the Governor vetoed SB 43, which would’ve allowed charitable organizations to hold paddlewheel raffles to raise money for their local causes,” said Mursau. “This bill passed the legislature unanimously because legislators across the state heard from their constituents that this type of fundraising is a fun way to bring communities together and raise money for important causes.”

-30-