



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 25, 2022

CONTACT: Van Wanggaard
608-266-1832

WANGGAARD SENDS FIVE PUBLIC SAFETY BILLS TO GOVERNOR Bills Focus on Fentanyl Epidemic, Citizen Oversight of Police and Riots

MADISON – Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) led the legislative fight to send five bills to the Governor Evers's desk focusing on law and order and public safety. These bills help fight the Fentanyl Epidemic, increase community involvement with Police and Fire Commissions, and criminalize rioting in Wisconsin.

“There is no more important government function than public safety,” said Wanggaard. “We’re seeing crime increase across the state and drug overdoses are at record level. These common-sense bills increase penalties for rioting and fentanyl possession, while also providing tools to people to keep themselves safe and involved with law enforcement.”

The five bills that cleared the legislature are:

- Senate Bill 117 – Reforming police and fire commissions. Co-authored by Rep. Janel Brandtjen (R-Menomonee Falls)
- Senate Bill 296 – Criminalizing rioting. Co-authored by Rep. John Spiros (R-Marshfield)
- Senate Bill 352 – Increasing penalties for the illegal manufacturing, delivery, and distribution of Fentanyl. Co-authored by Rep. Jill Billings (D-LaCrosse)
- Senate Bill 600 – Decriminalizing fentanyl testing strips, which allows people to test for the presence of Fentanyl in legal and illegal drugs. Co-authored by Rep. Jesse James (R-Altoona).
- Senate Bill 399 – Use of billboards to recruit employees for Department of Corrections. Co-authored by Rep. Jesse James.

“These bills are no-brainers. Show me the person who does not think that rioting should be a crime, or that we shouldn’t tackle our Fentanyl epidemic,” said Wanggaard. “Governor Evers should sign these bills as soon as possible to make Wisconsin safer.”

In addition, Wanggaard had three other bills advance through one house of the legislature. Those bills prohibit banning no-knock warrants, allow for gifted children to be grade-advanced in choice schools, and ensure competition in prison vendor contracts.

Serving Racine and Kenosha Counties - Senate District 21

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 • (608) 266-1832 • Toll-free (866) 615-7510
E-Mail: Sen.Wanggaard@legis.wi.gov • SenatorWanggaard.com