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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Governor Evers Signs 2025 Wisconsin Act 143 to Define Anti-Semitism Despite Left-Wing Pressure

Madison, WI – On Friday, 2025 Wisconsin Act 143 was signed into law, establishing a clear and widely recognized framework to help identify and address antisemitism across the state.

The legislation introduced by Representative Ron Tusler (R- Harrison) and Senator Rob Hutton (R-Brookfield) codifies the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism into Wisconsin state law. It directs state agencies, local governments, and public officials to consider the IHRA definition, including its contemporary examples, when evaluating evidence of discriminatory intent under existing laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, religion, color, or national origin, as well as when applying enhanced penalties for hate crimes.

Importantly, the law does not create a new crime. Rather, the IHRA definition is applied only in the context of evaluating conduct that already meets the threshold of a hate crime or unlawful discrimination under existing law.

“I’d like to thank the Milwaukee/Madison Jewish Federations and the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) for all their work in support of this bill. This legislation provides a clear, internationally recognized framework to better identify and respond to antisemitism,” said Representative Tusler. “At a time when antisemitic incidents are rising across the state and nation, this law ensures that institutions have the tools they need to distinguish unlawful discrimination from protected expression.”

The bill’s passage followed significant debate, including divisions among legislative Democrats and outside pressure from left-wing special interest groups. Despite those challenges, the measure ultimately secured approval from the Governor and has now been enacted into law.



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By adopting the IHRA working definition in a non-binding, guidance-based manner, Wisconsin strengthens protections for the Jewish community while maintaining constitutional safeguards for free speech.

With the signing of 2025 Wisconsin Act 143, Wisconsin joins 37 other states and the federal government who have taken similar steps to address antisemitism through the adoption of the IHRA framework.

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