



# JOEL KLEEFISCH

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 38<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

## **Assembly Bill 77: Relating to: Former Officers Employed by Another State, and Successor Agencies**

*Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations*

Thank you Chairman Swearingen and members of the Committee on State Affairs for holding a hearing today on Assembly Bill 77, authored by myself and Senator Janet Bewley. Senator Bewley cannot be here today but has submitted written testimony. Assembly Bill 77 streamlines the conceal carry licensing process for former law enforcement officers in Wisconsin.

Former law enforcement officers are generally eligible to obtain either a Wisconsin Concealed Carry license or a Federal HR218 Concealed Carry License. Most former law enforcement officers prefer to obtain an HR218 License for various reasons. The HR218 License is valid in all 50 states, requires annual training and is only valid for handguns.

To obtain an HR218 License, former Wisconsin law enforcement officers must contact their former employer and get a certification card from that employer indicating the officer satisfies all of the statutory requirements to carry a handgun concealed.

Under current law, there is no clear way for a Wisconsin resident who is a former officer but was employed in another state to gain an HR218 License.

Under this bill, law enforcement officers who are Wisconsin residents but were employed by an agency outside of Wisconsin, will be able to apply for an HR218 License through the Department of Justice, with the correct documentation from their former employer.

Under current law, it is unclear how a former officer should become certified, if the agency they worked for no longer exists. There are small agencies all across Wisconsin who get swallowed up by County Sheriff offices or other municipal agencies for various reasons, usually associated with cost.

Under this bill, any agency who assumes the responsibilities of another, must also assume the responsibilities associated with providing adequate documentation to former officers looking to obtain HR218 certification.



**SENATOR JANET BEWLEY**  
**WISCONSIN STATE SENATE**

**Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations**  
**2015 Assembly Bill 77**  
**April 15, 2015**

Good Afternoon Chairman and committee members. I apologize I cannot be at the hearing today. I introduced this legislation last session after hearing from a constituent. Here is his story.

My name is Paul Stein. I served a career in Law Enforcement for nearly 30 years. I retired in 2001 from the Duluth (MN) Police department. I have been a Wisconsin resident since 1991.

When the Law Enforcement Officers Safety act was passed federally, the intent was to offer current and retired law enforcement the ability to carry a concealed weapon, for their protection, within the US. With only a little thought, a person can understand why Law Enforcement Officers and Retirees would want that protective opportunity.

Personally, I have had events in my retirement that have started off with, "I remember you, you arrested my brother..." I have also had people come to my home looking for help because I used to be a police officer.

The current Wisconsin statute, as written, does not allow me to avail myself of the same protections offered Wisconsin based retiree's or Federal retiree's. I am sure the intent, at the time the current bill was passed, was not to overlook any particular segment of retired Law Enforcement, and the current bill allows for that.

Allowing a retiree, retiring in good standing from an agency outside the State of Wisconsin, and otherwise qualified under HR218, with annual qualification to local or past agency standards as administered by a competent fire-arms instructor would fulfill the intent of the current Wisconsin statute, HR218, and not have some fall thru the cracks.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Stein  
Maple, Wisconsin

Again, I am sorry I could not be there to testify in person. Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.



**25th Senate District**

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