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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 36TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety
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AB 112: Grants for Treatment and Diversion Programs

State statute directs the Joint Legislative Council to create, in each biennium, a Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations. For the past several sessions, I have had the honor of serving as Chair of this committee.

At our last meeting, the committee approved 3 pieces of legislation that are now being considered by the legislature. AB 112 is before you today.

In 2005, Wisconsin created the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion program (also known as TAD) to give counties an opportunity to offer offenders a voluntary substance abuse treatment option as an alternative to serving time in jail or prison. Each county has the flexibility to create a program that meets the criminal justice needs in their community. Some counties offer adult drug courts, while others offer a mental health court or veterans' treatment court.

When the program began, it was piloted in 7 counties with a total budget of \$1 Million. After 5 years, the results were so positive that the legislature authorized funding for additional grants to counties to start their own program. Today, there are TAD programs operating in 46 Wisconsin counties and two tribes. Today, there are TAD programs operating in 46 Wisconsin counties and two tribes. The legislature has also increased funding for the TAD program every biennium.

Assembly Bill 112 is a very simple bill that specifies that grants given to counties for treatment and diversion programs, may also be given to tribes for the same purpose and with the same requirements. While the Department of Justice already does this "in practice" it isn't written in our statutes. AB 112 simply codifies this practice into law.

This bill passed the state Assembly on a voice vote last fall. On behalf of the State and Tribal Relations Committee, I would appreciate the committee's support to move the bill forward.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Legislative Council staff to the State and Tribal Relations committee, are also here to answer questions.