



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TOM LARSON

Testimony on Assembly Bill 324 September 23, 2015

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on behalf of Rep. Tom Larson and Assembly Bill 324.

Within the City of Chippewa Falls is a former landfill site that was purchased from the city about ten years ago for the purposes of establishing the Wisconsin Renaissance Faire. The Faire ran every summer for a few years, although it struggled financially and went out of business for good in 2012. The property has since been renamed the Eagle Ridge Festival Grounds, and it continues to host various events, including the Chippewa Valley LogJam, which began this summer.

Under section 125.07 of the Wisconsin Statutes, unaccompanied minors generally may not be present on premises that have a license or permit to sell alcoholic beverages. This section includes a number of exceptions, including one that was created specifically for the Wisconsin Renaissance Faire (2007 Act 8), because the Faire wanted to be able to sell such beverages such as beer, wine, and mead throughout the property, not just in certain designated areas.

The statutory exception remains on the books, but due to the property's name change in the meantime, there has been some concern that the exception no longer applied to the property and the events it hosts. For that reason, the property's current owners asked Representative Larson and Representative Bernier to update the statute so that the Eagle Ridge Festival Grounds can continue to provide entertainment options for people of all ages and attract visitors from throughout the area and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.