

LEGISLATIVE HEARING CALENDAR

Positions to be taken by the City of Milwaukee on the following bills will be discussed by the

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY-LEGISLATION

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008 AT 1:30 PM

Room 301-B City Hall

- AB-71 Requiring that patients be informed of health care facility use charges and that the charges be identified separately on bills.
- AB-649 Prohibiting municipal electric or water utilities from collecting certain utility arrearages from owners of rental properties as property liens.
- SB-403 Property tax exemption for low-income housing.

Update on various legislative bills.

2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 71

February 13, 2007 – Introduced by Representatives BENEDICT, BERCEAU, BOYLE, GUNDERSON, HAHN, HUBLER, MOLEPSKE, MURSAU, NASS, SEIDEL, SHERIDAN, TRAVIS and TURNER, cosponsored by Senators LEHMAN, COGGS and ERPENBACH. Referred to Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 146.97 of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring that patients be
2 informed of health care facility use charges and that the charges be identified
3 separately on bills.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires that a health care facility, physician, or employee of the health care facility or physician notify a patient, before commencement of a physician office visit, if the health care facility or physician charges for use of the health care facility during the course of the office visit. The health care facility, physician, or employee must also, on any bill for services, identify the facility use charge separately from the physician's service charge.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

4 **SECTION 1.** 146.97 of the statutes is created to read:
5 **146.97 Health care facility use charges. (1)** In this section:
6 (a) "Health care facility" has the meaning given in s. 150.84 (2).

2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 649

December 28, 2007 – Introduced by Representatives ROTH, ALBERS, KESTELL, F. LASEE, NASS, NYGREN, PETROWSKI, TOWNSEND, VOS, VRUWINK and ZIEGELBAUER, cosponsored by Senator ROESSLER. Referred to Committee on Urban and Local Affairs.

1 **AN ACT to repeal** 66.0809 (5) (b) 1. and 2. and 66.0809 (5) (c) and (d); and **to**
2 **renumber and amend** 66.0809 (5) (b) (intro.) of the statutes; **relating to:**
3 prohibiting municipal electric or water utilities from collecting certain utility
4 arrearsages from owners of rental properties as property liens.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a municipal utility is allowed to collect arrearages for utility service provided to lots or parcels of real estate by providing, on October 15, a written notice of payment due to the owner or occupant of the real estate. The notice must specify the amount of the arrearage and any penalty and must state the following: 1) that, if payment is not received by November 1, an additional penalty will be assessed; and 2) that, if payment is not received by November 15, the arrearage amount and any penalties will become a lien on the property that will be collected as a tax on the property.

Also under current law, if a municipal utility provides electric or water service to a rental dwelling unit, the municipal utility may use the arrearage collection procedure described above only if the municipal utility follows certain additional procedures for notifying both the owner and the tenant about any payments that are past due. In addition, the municipal utility may use the arrearage collection procedure only if the owner of the rental property provides the municipal utility with written notification of the name and address of the owner, as well as the tenant who is responsible for paying for the service. Also, if requested by the municipal utility,

2007 SENATE BILL 403

January 18, 2008 – Introduced by Senators TAYLOR, COGGS, PLALE, BRESKE and DECKER, cosponsored by Representatives GOTTLIEB, GRIGSBY, ALBERS, DAVIS, FIELDS, HAHN, HONADEL, MONTGOMERY, STONE, TOWNSEND, TURNER, YOUNG, VAN ROY and RHOADES. Referred to Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, and Housing.

- 1 AN ACT *to amend* 70.11 (intro.) and 70.11 (4); and *to create* 70.11 (4a) of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** the property tax exemption for low-income housing.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, property owned by churches or religious or benevolent associations, including benevolent nursing homes and retirement homes for the aged, is exempt from the property tax. Under this bill, property owned by churches or religious or benevolent associations and used as low-income housing is exempt from the property tax. Under the bill, low-income housing is any residential housing unit within a low-income housing project occupied by a low-income or very low-income person, as determined pursuant to the income limits published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or that is vacant and only available to such persons.

Under current law, if property that is exempt from property taxes is leased, the property retains its tax exemption if the property owner uses all of the leasehold income for maintenance of the leased property or construction debt retirement of the leased property, or both, and, except for residential property, if the lessee would be eligible for the exemption if the lessee owned the property.

Under the bill, leasing property that is low-income housing does not make the property taxable if the property owner uses all of the leasehold income for certain expenditures directly related to the low-income housing project to which the property belongs, except that the property owner may, generally, use up to 10 percent of the leasehold income for certain expenditures, or any amount for debt service, directly related to any other low-income housing project under the owner's control

SENATE BILL 403

that is located in this state. Eligible expenditures include maintenance, capital replacements, insurance premiums, project management, debt retirement, moneys reserved for project-related purposes, general and administrative expenses, social services and other resident services, utilities, financing costs, any other expenditure related to preserving and managing the project, and any other similar expenditure.

Because this bill relates to an exemption from state or local taxes, it may be referred to the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions for a report to be printed as an appendix to the bill.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. 70.11 (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 **70.11 Property exempted from taxation.** (intro.) The property described
3 in this section is exempted from general property taxes if the property is exempt
4 under sub. (1), (2), (18), (21), (27) or (30); if it was exempt for the previous year and
5 its use, occupancy or ownership did not change in a way that makes it taxable; if the
6 property was taxable for the previous year, the use, occupancy or ownership of the
7 property changed in a way that makes it exempt and its owner, on or before March 1,
8 files with the assessor of the taxation district where the property is located a form
9 that the department of revenue prescribes or if the property did not exist in the
10 previous year and its owner, on or before March 1, files with the assessor of the
11 taxation district where the property is located a form that the department of revenue
12 prescribes. ~~Leasing~~ Except as provided in sub. (4a) (e), leasing a part of the property
13 described in this section does not render it taxable if the lessor uses all of the
14 leasehold income for maintenance of the leased property or construction debt
15 retirement of the leased property, or both, and, except for residential housing, if the
16 lessee would be exempt from taxation under this chapter if it owned the property.
17 Any lessor who claims that leased property is exempt from taxation under this