



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 5, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Rep. Gary Hebl, (608) 266-7678

REP. HEBL'S SUMMER SCHOOL BILL PASSES SENATE COMMITTEE

(MADISON) – Today Representative Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie) expressed his pleasure on the unanimous passage of his bill, Senate Bill 301, through the Senate Committee on Education. It is the Senate version of his Assembly Bill, Assembly Bill 398.

“I was very excited to testify before both the Senate and Assembly Committees on Education,” Hebl said. “I am happy that we can have bipartisan agreement on an issue like this.”

Crafted in conjunction with the Wisconsin Association of School Boards and the Sun Prairie Area School District, the bill would expand the types of online summer school classes that would qualify for reimbursable state aid.

“AB 398 will give greater flexibility to school districts that use online summer classes to fulfill graduation requirements,” Hebl continued. “A lot of families are mobile during the summer months, going on vacations or living in summer homes. This bill would allow students to take certain classes they might not otherwise be able to take. It will help fight summer slide and allow credit deficient students to catch up and graduate on time.”

Hebl cited health education classes as an example. Online health education classes do not currently qualify for reimbursable state aid, yet health education is a graduation requirement in every school district in the state.

“In Sun Prairie, the in-person health education classes offered by the school district in the summer fill up quickly,” Hebl said. “This bill would open the door for more schoolchildren to be able to take online summer health classes, helping them to fulfill a graduation requirement and keeping them on the road to graduating on time- or even early.”

The bill would also give students more flexibility, allowing them to take classes that may not otherwise fit into their preferred school year schedule. This could include advanced world language classes such as Spanish 5.

(continued)

The bill will now be sent to the Senate floor to be voted on by the body as a whole. If passed in the Senate, it will be sent to the Assembly for a vote. Passage in the Assembly will send the bill to the governor's desk for a signature, making it law.

-END-