



# Warren Petryk

State Representative • 93rd Assembly District

Date: January 13, 2016

To: Members of the Committee on Jobs and the Economy

From: Representative Petryk

Re: Testimony regarding Assembly Bill 591

Good Morning Chairman Neylon and members of the committee. I appreciate this opportunity to come before you today to speak in favor of Assembly Bill 591.

Assembly Bill 591 recognizes and protects a variety of professional credentials in fields important to public safety and will help those who have earned professional credentials in these fields by recognizing them in statute. The bill provides protection for the use of those credentials, thereby safeguarding the considerable investment people have made in obtaining them. Under the bill, misrepresentation of having earned these credentials would be punishable by a misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$1000.

The credentials covered under Assembly Bill 591 are: certified dangerous goods professional; certified hazardous materials manager; certified hazardous materials practitioner; certified health physicist; certified industrial hygienist; certified safety professional; and registered radiation protection technologist.

The fiscal estimate released by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection states that the department can absorb any costs related to this legislation within the agency's budget. The fiscal estimate states that the department does not anticipate having to change any existing rules nor create any new rules to enforce this legislation. The department at this time cannot predict the additional costs of administering this bill nor can it predict how many complaints the agency might receive from consumers or competitors.

Assembly Bill 591 does not create any new licenses or bureaucracy to support its implementation but it simply provides an enforcement tool if anyone falsely represents themselves as having obtained these credentials. At this time, similar legislation has passed in at least 19 other states. Through Assembly Bill 591 we want to ensure that those representing themselves as holding these particular credentials have in fact met the minimum qualifications required by the state, and thereby, safeguarding the public.

I ask for your support today for this public safety legislation and I will be happy to attempt to answer any questions at this time. Otherwise, there are other experts that will be testifying after me that can answer questions.

**Alberta Darling**  
**Wisconsin State Senator**  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

Professional Credentials Relating to Hazardous Materials

Testimony on Assembly Bill 591

Assembly Committee on Jobs and the Economy

January 13, 2016

Thank you Chair Neylon and members of the Assembly Committee on Jobs and the Economy for hearing this bill. AB 591 provide recognition and protection for individuals who have received certification in the handling of hazardous materials.

Expert handling of hazardous materials is critical to maintaining public safety. AB 591 requires individuals to not falsely claim titles or credentials issued by certain organizations for the handling of hazardous materials. It's critical that we assure the public that individuals representing themselves as being involved in these professions meet minimum qualifications.

It is important to recognize that AB 591 does not create any new licenses or bureaucracy. Nor does it protect any one credentialing agency. In addition, similar legislation has passed in 19 other states. It does provide an enforcement tool against those who would falsely claim these credentials.

In addition to ensuring public safety, this bill will also help benefit some of our Veterans. As part of their military training, many Veterans receive the credentials outlined in this bill. They should be able to use that military training and credentialing to find a good job when they are done serving our country. This bill will ensure that Veterans know that their training and credentialing will be worth something to them and their families when they leave military service.

It is time to recognize these individuals and the important role that they play in handling hazardous materials. They help keep Wisconsin safe every day. The time and energy they put in to meeting certification to handle these types of materials should be applauded and protected. The public should have the peace of mind that individuals who say they can do this work can actually perform it in a safe and effective way.

I want like to thank my colleague, Rep. Petryk, for his leadership on this issue. Again, thank you to the committee for taking the time to hear this bill and I urge you to consider supporting it.



## 8 Credential Recognition and Title Protection

The Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM) seeks legislation to provide legal recognition to the professions of hazardous materials management, industrial hygiene, health physics and safety. IHMM's mission is assuring the public that individuals representing themselves as being involved in these professions meet minimum qualifications, thereby protecting the public health and safety from harm. IHMM also works to support military personnel in these professions transition to the civilian workforce. Wisconsin does not currently have any type of recognized credential for these fields.

The *Environment, Occupational Health and Safety Credential Recognition Act of 2015* will:

- Recognize active military and veterans trained, during active duty, to manage hazardous materials with Wisconsin recognized credentials.
- Assure employers that Wisconsin recognized credentials effectively measure competencies of veterans and civilians in Environment, Occupational Health and Safety professions
- Assure Wisconsin citizens that those involved in these professions have met minimum qualifications to protect the public safety.

These changes (minus one of the credentials that was late to the effort) have been made in 19 other states without incident. This legislation should be cost neutral with no new position authority needed. Enforcement would entail making noncompliance a misdemeanor with a fine up to \$1,000.

The American Legion, Soldiers for Life, and professional organizations are committed to helping soldiers transition into civilian life and employment.

### About the Institute of Hazardous Materials Management

For over thirty years the Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM), a not-for-profit organization founded in 1984, has been protecting the environment and the public's health, safety, and security through the administration of credentials recognizing professionals who have demonstrated a high level of knowledge, expertise, and excellence in the management of hazardous materials and dangerous goods transport. The Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM) is an approved accreditation body for personnel certification under ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024, *Conformity assessment — General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*. IHMM is also accredited by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB).

IHMM administers the Certified Hazardous Materials Manager, the Certified Hazardous Materials Practitioner and the Certified Dangerous Goods Professional credentials.

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Accredited by the American National Standards Institute and  
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