

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Colleagues

**FROM: Rep. James, Rep. Callahan, Rep. Bowen, Rep. Snyder, Rep. Schraa
Senator Van Wanggaard**

DATE: May 17, 2021

**RE: Co-Sponsorship of LRB-3392/LRB-3484, relating to: the use of billboards
to recruit Department of Corrections employees**

DEADLINE: Friday, May 28 at 4:00 p.m.

**To be added as a co-sponsor, please reply to this e-mail or contact Rep. James's or
Sen. Wanggaard's office by Friday, May 28 at 4:00 p.m.**

Position vacancies have become increasingly common in Wisconsin's Department of Corrections facilities. The shortage is causing current staff to fill shifts, resulting in increased overtime. Per the Wisconsin State Journal, overtime costs at the Division of Adult Institutions cost taxpayers \$60,000,000 in fiscal year 2020. This is a \$10,000,000 increase from just two years prior.

Current law does not allow the DOC to use billboards to recruit employees. No other state agency is expressly barred from using billboards staff for their facilities. This bill would simply bring the DOC in line with every other state agency. Allowing the DOC to use billboards to advertise that they are hiring at their facilities, which will attract more applicants and reduce overtime costs.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill eliminates a current law prohibition on the use of billboards by the Department of Corrections to recruit employees.