

SHOPPING CART THEFT

SUMMARY: Increases penalties for theft of a shopping cart to \$500 per cart. Current law was \$50 fine.
OUTCOME: Signed into law, Act 159 effective April, 2004. This law will deter the intentional and unintentional theft of shopping carts and provide more incentive for law enforcement to prosecute.

JOINT LIQUOR ADVERTISING

SUMMARY: Allows retailers of same franchise to cooperatively advertise for liquor.
OUTCOME: Signed into law, Act 124 effective March, 2004. This bill will save retailers time and money on advertising expenses by allowing joint advertising of liquor.

MINIMUM WAGE PREEMPTION

SUMMARY: This bill would have prohibited municipalities from enacting a minimum wage higher than the state minimum wage.
OUTCOME: Vetted by Governor. This bill would have prevented a patchwork of varying minimum wage levels across the state.

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSES

SUMMARY: Allows reciprocity of bartender's licenses between municipalities.
OUTCOME: Signed into law, Act 245 effective May, 2004. This legislation will allow an employee to use their bartender's license in any municipality in the state and not just in the municipality in which it was obtained as stated in current law.

BAD CHECK WRITING

SUMMARY: Decreases the felony threshold from \$2500 or less to \$1500 or less for prosecution of bad checks.
OUTCOME: Signed into law, Act 306 effective June 1, 2004. By decreasing the threshold level, it is our hope that more District Attorney's will prosecute bad check writers.

GAS THEFT

SUMMARY: Creates a penalty for leaving a gas station without paying for gasoline or diesel fuel. First offense

is subject to a \$200 forfeiture. For subsequent offenses,

the person is subject to the additional penalties and the option to suspend the person's driver's license.
OUTCOME: Signed into law, Act 80, effective January, 2004. Gas theft is a very serious and expensive problem for retailers with gas pumps. The penalties prescribed in this law are substantive and will hopefully decrease the number of gas thefts in our state.

OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

SUMMARY: The bill allows for the trimming of vegetation along state-owned highways which block the view of signs on private land. Currently, DOT has had an internal policy which allows sign owners to request the trimming or removal of vegetation which blocks the visibility of a sign. Over the past seven years, sign owners have been denied almost all requests to have such vegetation trimmed despite the fact that no taxpayer money is spent to have the vegetation trimmed or removed.
OUTCOME: Vetted by the Governor. This bill would have allowed sign owners to have the trimming done that is vitally needed for the public to view the signs.

INVESTMENT CAPITAL

SUMMARY: As part of a larger financial modernization package, this legislation allows non-traditional lenders to provide financial assistance to businesses.
OUTCOME: Signed into law, Act 63, effective December, 2003. This is an economic development issue that will help existing and start-up retailers receive financial assistance.

SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REFORM

SUMMARY: Includes several provisions such as: creation of a centralized website housing new rules and regulations; forming a small business board and requiring agencies to submit any proposed rule that may have a significant economic impact on small businesses to that board; requiring every state agency to review all of its rules during the next five years to determine if any of the rules place undo burden upon small businesses.
OUTCOME: Signed into law, Act 145, effective April,

RESPONSIBILITY IN FOOD CONSUMPTION

SUMMARY: This legislation would provide a civil liability exemption for food manufacturers, distributors, packers, marketers and advertisers for claims resulting in weight gain or obesity because of consumption of food.
OUTCOME: Vetted by the Governor. Even though this legislation was vetoed by the Governor, it is considered a victory because it passed both houses and brought awareness to the issue. We are hopeful that Congress passes a similar measure at the federal level.

MAIN STREET CRIME

SUMMARY: This bill makes changes to legal requirements relating to prosecution of bad check writers, including:
• Removes the requirement to send a returned check notice via certified mail. The Main Street Bill will allow this notice to be sent by regular U.S. mail saving retailers valuable time and approximately \$3/letter.
• Allows consolidation of debt actions. For example, it would allow Fresh Brands, Inc. to sue one individual who has written bad checks to numerous retailers at one time.
• Clarifies the statutes to allow civil recovery for each worthless check issued as opposed to the "quantity discount" that is given now.
• Increases recoverable costs to 3 times the amount of the check plus court costs.

OUTCOME: Signed into law, Act 138, effective April, 2004. This bill makes it easier and more cost-effective to prosecute bad check writers.

BOND CAP

SUMMARY: Caps appeals bonds at \$100 million.
OUTCOME: Signed into law, Act 105, effective January, 2004. This law protects the appeal process by not requiring excessive bonds to be paid before filing an appeal. Paying this bond makes a business vulnerable to bankruptcy, especially small businesses, and impedes due process.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

Compiled by the WGA for the
2003-2004
Legislative Session

The purpose of this legislative report card is to grade our elected officials for their votes on WGA-related bills. These grades can then be used by members of the Wisconsin Grocers Association to make educated decisions during the 2004 elections. As an opinion leader in your community, it is necessary that you are involved in the election of the people who represent you and your business in the State's Capitol.

Legislators were graded based on the list of legislation significant to the WGA (see left). Points were given to an individual for introducing or voting in favor of legislation that the WGA supported. Extra points were given for introducing pro-WGA amendments, speaking for or against proposals, certain committee action, and general support of the WGA's issues.

This year WGA will honor an exclusive group of legislators who have been recipients of the Friend of Grocers award each year that it has been awarded: 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004. These Special Friends of Grocers are:

- Speaker John Gard
- Rep. Dean Kauter
- Sen. Mary Panzer

The following legislators earned the highest grade given by the WGA. These individuals have consistently supported and introduced legislation that benefits the grocery industry and therefore, are considered "Friend of Grocers". Their efforts will be recognized by receiving a WGA endorsement and a miniature grocery cart, which applauds their hard work on our behalf.

ASSEMBLY

Shery Albers (R-Loganville)
 Garey Bies (R-Sister Bay)
 Jeff Fitzgerald (R-Juneau)
 Steven Foti (R-Oconomowoc)
 Steven Freese (R-Dodgeville)
 Don Friske (R-Merrill)
 John Gard (R-Peshigo)
 Curt Gielow (R-Mequon)
 Glenn Grothman (R-West Bend)
 Scott Gunderson (R-Waterford)
 Eugene Hahn (R-Cambria)
 Doc Hines (R-Portage)
 Michael Huebsch (R-West Salem)
 Jean Hundermark (R-Clintonville)
 Scott Jensen (R-Waukeshas)
 Dean Kauter (R-Neenah)
 Steve Kestell (R-Elkhart Lake)
 Judy Krawczyk (R-Green Bay)
 Bonnie Ladwig (R-Racine)
 Michael Lehman (R-Hartford)
 Daniel LeMahieu (R-Oostburg)
 Terri McCormick (R-Oshkosh)
 Dan Meyer (R-Eagle River)
 Phil Montgomery (R-Green Bay)
 Terry Musser (R-Black River Falls)
 Stephen Nass (R-Whitewater)
 Luther Olsen (R-Berlin)
 Mark Pettis (R-Herfel)

ASSEMBLY

Kitty Rhoades (R-River Falls)
 Jeff Stone (R-Greenfield)
 Scott Suder (R-Abbotstord)
 Karl Van Roy (R-Green Bay)
 Daniel Vrakas (R-Hartland)
 David Ward (R-Fort Atkinson)
 Becky Weber (R-Green Bay)

SENATE

Alberta Darling (R-River Hills)
 Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau)
 Sheila Harsdorf (R-River Falls)
 Ted Kanavas (R-Pewaukee)
 Mary Lazich (R-New Berlin)
 Joe Leibham (R-Sheboygan)
 Mary Panzer (R-West Bend)
 Tom Reynolds (R-West Allis)
 Carol Roessler (R-Oshkosh)
 Dale Schultz (R-Prarie du Chien)
 Cathy Stepp (R-Sturtevant)
 Robert Welch (R-Redgranite)
 David Zien (R-Eau Claire)

The following legislators have been given a "B" grade by the WGA. This admirable mark is given to legislators who are generally supportive of our industry and, therefore, deserving of the WGA endorsement.

ASSEMBLY

John Ainsworth (R-Shawano)
 Roger Breske (D-Eland)
 Mark Gottlieb (R-Port Washington)
 Mark Gundrum (R-Hales Corners)
 Mark Honadel (R-South Milwaukee)
 Suzanne Jeskewitz (R-Menomonee Falls)
 Samantha Kerkmann (R-Powers Lake)
 Robin Kreibich (R-Eau Claire)
 Frank Lasee (R-Ledgewiew)
 Gabe Loeffelholz (R-Platteville)
 Thomas Lohian (R-Williams Bay)
 Ann Nischke (R-Waukeshas)
 Al Ott (R-Forest Junction)
 Carol Owens (R-Oshkosh)
 Jerry Petrowski (R-Marathon)
 Michael Powers (R-Albany)
 Lorraine Seratti (R-Spread Eagle)

SENATE

Debi Towns (R-Janesville)
 John Townsend (R-Fond du Lac)
 Gregg Underheim (R-Oshkosh)
 Leah Vukmir (R-Wauwatosa)
 Steve Wieckert (R-Appleton)
 Mary Williams (R-Medford)
 Jeff Wood (R-Chippewa Falls)
 Robert Ziegelbauer (D-Mantowoc)

The following legislators received a "C" for expressing a willingness to support our industry. The WGA will encourage them to be more supportive in the next legislative session.

ASSEMBLY SENATE

Barbara Gronemus (D-Whitehall)
 DuWayne Johnsrud (R-Eastman)
 James Kreuser (D-Kenosha)
 Tony Staskunas (D-West Allis)
 Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee)
 Jon Erpenbach (D-Middleton)
 Julie Lassa (D-Stevens Point)
 Mark Meyer (D-LaCrosse)
 Jeff Plale (D-South Milwaukee)

The following legislators have been given a "D" because they have voted against the WGA on key issues and have not supported major policy efforts. The WGA will encourage these officials to support our issues.

ASSEMBLY

Larry Balow (D-Chippewa Falls)
 Frank Boyle (D-Superior)
 Pedro Colon (D-Milwaukee)
 Gregory Huber (D-Wausau)
 Mary Hubler (D-Rice Lake)
 Shirley Krug (D-Milwaukee)
 Margaret Krusick (D-Milwaukee)
 Joe Plouff (D-Menominee)

The following legislators have worked against the WGA and its members and have voted against WGA positions. They have earned an "F" grade.

SENATE

Mark Pocan (D-Madison)
 Jon Richards (D-Milwaukee)
 Marlin Schneider (D-Wisconsin Rapids)
 Dan Schooff (D-Beloit)
 Gary Sherman (D-Ashland)
 Jennifer Shilling (D-LaCrosse)
 Christine Sinicki (D-Milwaukee)
 John Steinbrink (D-Kenosha)
 Amy Sue Vrwuink (D-Milladore)
 Sheldon Wasserman (D-Milwaukee)
 Leon Young (D-Milwaukee)
 Josh Zepnick (D-Milwaukee)

ASSEMBLY

Terese Berceau (D-Milwaukee)
 Spencer Black D-Madison)
 Spencer Coggs (D-Milwaukee)
 David Cullen (D-Milwaukee)
 Tom Hebl (D-Sun Prairie)
 John Lehman (D-Milwaukee)
 Mark Miller (D-Monona)
 Louis Molepske (D-Stevens Point)
 Johnnie Morris-Tatum (D-Milwaukee)
 Sandy Pope-Roberts (D-Verona)
 Barbara Toles (D-Milwaukee)
 David Travis (D-Madison)
 Robert Turner (D-Racine)
 Terry Van Akkeren (D-Sheboygan)
 Annette Williams (D-Milwaukee)
 Wayne Wood (D-Janesville)

SENATE

Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee)
 Charles Chvala (D-Madison)
 Spencer Coggs (D-Milwaukee)
 Robert Jauch (D-Poplar)
 Judy Robson (D-Beloit)