

## State Assembly Gives Final Approval To Probation Revocation Bill, Agrees To Eliminate Provision That Would Have Gutted Bill

By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

Although Governor Tony Evers vows to veto it, the Wisconsin Assembly late yesterday gave final approval to a bill that requires the state Department of Corrections to seek to revoke probation or extended supervision of criminals who commit new crimes while already on probation or supervision for other crimes.

Last week, the Assembly essentially gutted the bill by adding an amendment from soft-on-crime Republican Assemblyman Shae Sortwell of Two Rivers that would have limited revocations to violent felonies. (Most charged with new violent felonies are already revoked, so Sortwell's amendment made the new bill meaningless.) But the State Senate Wednesday passed the bill after removing Sortwell's awful amendment. Last night, the Assembly accepted the Senate change and the stronger version of the bill was given final approval.

This is a major victory.

Four Republicans joined with the Democrats in opposing the anti-crime bill: Sortwell of Two Rivers, John Nygren of Marinette, Michael Schraa of Oshkosh and Patrick Snyder of Schofield. Every Democrat also voted against the bill. That meant the final approval was 59-40.

Presuming Evers vetoes the bill, it will mean that every time a criminal commits a new and awful crime after not being revoked for an earlier crime, the blame will be directly on

Evers. Southeastern Wisconsin has an epidemic right now of crimes being committed multiple times by criminals already on probation for other crimes. The auto theft problem is largely a result of the state's refusal to jail individuals with multiple offenses.

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