



# ROB HUTTON

## WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

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### **Introduces Bill to Shield Police from Endless Investigations**

MADISON—Sen. Rob Hutton (R-Brookfield) testified today on [legislation](#) he introduced with Rep. Clint Moses (R-Menomonie) that places a reasonable limit on open-ended investigations into law enforcement officers.

Senate Bill 25 modifies an obscure provision in state law that allows judges to re-open investigations into people who an elected District Attorney declined to prosecute after finding that they acted in self-defense in an encounter.

There is currently no requirement that new evidence be brought forward disputing the finding of self-defense, no time limitation on when such investigations can be opened, and no limit to the number of times the case can be re-opened.

The bill requires that new evidence must be presented to a judge before they can re-open a case against an officer. Officers who are involved in a use of force incident are already required to undergo investigations, providing multiple opportunities to ensure justice is properly served. This bill doesn't change that.

However, the obscure “John Doe” statute subjects officers to a potentially endless legal process, a process that becomes the punishment in cases where a duly elected DA declines to issue charges and investigations have cleared the officer of wrongdoing.

### **Senator Hutton issued the following statement:**

*“In many conversations with law enforcement, it became clear to me that the threat of legal harassment is pushing officers out of the force and seriously harming recruitment. Officers handle very tough situations every day with great professionalism, yet they face the possibility that any one of those encounters will lead to their professional, personal and financial ruin.”*

*“This bill does only one thing—it requires new evidence be brought forward before another investigation can be opened. It’s a sensible update to a very old state law that will help communities recruit and retain law enforcement officers.”*

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### **About Rob Hutton**

Rob Hutton represents Wisconsin’s 5<sup>th</sup> District in the State Senate, covering Brookfield, Elm Grove, Pewaukee and portions of Milwaukee, Waukesha, Wauwatosa, and West Allis. Hutton previously served eight years in the State Assembly and seven years on the Waukesha County Board.