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NEWS RELEASE

David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. applauds Milwaukee County State Representative Josh Zepnick, 9th Assembly District For His Co-sponsoring Senate Bill (SB) 109

SB 109 seeks to amend State Statute 946.41 relating to: soft tissue injury to a law enforcement officer when resisting or obstructing arrest

Milwaukee, Wi - This outstanding legislation, authored by Senators Joseph Leibham and Van Wanggaard, would add soft tissue injuries to the muscles, tendons, ligaments and nerves such as tears, sprains, contusions, skin abrasions and lacerations to the types of injuries that increase *Resisting or Obstructing an Officer Resulting in an Injury* from a Class A Misdemeanor (punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000 and imprisonment not to exceed 9 months) to a Class H Felony (increasing the potential imprisonment to a period of 6 years).

Information from the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau:

Under current law, a person who, while knowingly resisting or obstructing a law enforcement officer, causes substantial bodily harm to a law enforcement officer is guilty of a felony. "Substantial bodily harm" means a bodily injury that causes a laceration that requires stitches, staples, or a tissue adhesive; any fracture of a bone; a broken nose; a burn; a petechia; a temporary loss of consciousness, sight, or hearing; a concussion; or a loss or fracture of a tooth. This bill adds a soft tissue injury to the list of injuries that would result in the commission of a felony.

"I applaud the Legislature, and particularly Milwaukee Rep. Zepnick, for his sponsorship of these efforts to charge those who injure and abuse my law enforcement officers with a felony," said Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. "The only improvement that I can offer is to add our state's correctional employees to those protected by this increased penalty. Running an agency that guards thousand of inmates, and employs hundreds of correctional officers, I am sensitive to the rigors of their jobs as well. I have voiced that concern to the sponsors, and would love to see an amendment offered to that effect."

*** Note: Senate Bill 109 has been scheduled for a public hearing by Committee on Labor, Public Safety, and Urban Affairs in the Senate on June 7, 2011 at 10:30 AM at the Capitol, 330 Southwest.**

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