

Representative Gary Sherman
74th Assembly District



For immediate release
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Sherman “Pickle Bill” signed by Governor

Madison. Rep. Gary Sherman (D-Port Wing) stood by as Governor Doyle signed into law today a bill which would allow individuals to sell home canned fruits and vegetables at farmers markets and community events without the need to obtain a food processing license. With him was constituent Robert Schierman, a resident of the Town of Clover (Herbster) in Bayfield County, who initially suggested the idea to Sherman at a public event a couple of years ago.

“This is where many of my fruitful ideas come from,” Sherman said, “No pun intended. You run into people and you get to talking about things that might not necessarily be brought up in any other context. This was one of them, and it made a lot of sense.”

Schierman, who with his wife and two children traveled to Madison to witness the event and present the Governor with a jar of his own canned produce, knew that Minnesota had recently passed what was termed “The Pickle Bill,” and suggested that Wisconsin follow suit. The exemption from licensing is only applicable to products, once processed, that have a pH value of 4.6 or lower. This could include many types of jams, pickles, salsas and sauces.

Specific notice and labeling is required at the point of sale, and the income from such sales is limited to \$5,000 per year.

“This fits right in with the Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin program, but in a much smaller scale,” Sherman continued. “It allows people to preserve the bounty of their gardens while making a little extra money for profit or fundraising causes.”

Anyone interested in pursuing this opportunity should contact their local county UW-Extension agricultural agent for more detailed information and assistance.

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