

Sen. Dale Zorn remarks to Ways & Means Committee – June 13, 2019

Mr. Chairman, committee members, thank you for taking up Senate Bill 294, I especially appreciate the Chairman's understanding of the importance of the bill and Representative Kahle's work on this bill to get a solid working bill for all stakeholders...

Rep. Kahle and I have been working through this issue concerning construction of a high school football press box. Namely Madison Public Schools has commenced construction on their football stadium press box.

Madison designed a press box with a first-floor restroom, some storage and an area where players and referees can congregate during half-time. The school had no intention of including heat in the entire building. If heat is required, it would trigger additional code requirements that would have driven up the cost of the whole project significantly.

LARA ruled the current building code requires press boxes to be heated to maintain 68 degrees. While these press boxes are only used a few times a year,

they are customarily designed for open windows with few occupants such as coaches, a public announcer, and a score board operator.

This H-3 substitute before us today has been narrowed down to accomplish one simple goal: To exempt K-12 buildings at fall, spring and summer outdoor sporting events from the requirement to be heated. -- SEC. 13H (1)

Senate Bill 294 provides:

- Subsection (A) limits that exemption to press box spaces that total 500 feet or less.
- Subsection (B) exempts other building uses that are commonly found at our school sport venues, that are used only during games, small buildings such as ticket booths, concession stands, restrooms and halftime meeting rooms. Some of these were added at the request of the department, to give more clarity to their inspectors on such buildings as a ticket booth.

- **Section 2 of the bill was added for public safety reasons. While exempt, if a school decides to include heat in any of these types of spaces, this section simply provides heating will be constructed to building code.**
- **And finally, section 3 was added to address concerns raised in the House, that will provide a grandfather clause for existing structures.**

Earlier versions of the bill did include language to exempt such construction with a requirement to include an elevator, but we have found building codes already exempted that and eliminated that from the bill in front of us today.

Hoping for a late summer finish, this past Friday, Madison Schools had to stop construction until this issue is resolved.