



Bail bondsmen could return to Wisconsin

By [Jason Stein](#) of the Journal Sentinel

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Madison -- Wisconsin would have for-profit bail bondsmen under a provision passed by the budget committee Friday.

The proposal passed 10-6, with Sen. Glenn Grothman (R-West Bend) and Sen. Joe Leibham (R-Sheboygan) voting with Democrats against it. The bondsman could be paid at a rate up to 10% of bonds provided to pay bail for a prisoner and could have arrest powers to bring back fugitives who do not show up for their court dates.

State Rep. Robin Vos said that it would help ensure defendants show up for court dates, making the court system more efficient.

“People not showing up for court is a huge cost for local governments,” Vos said. “This is something that is used in almost every state in the country.”

But Sen. Bob Jauch (D-Poplar) said it wasn’t proper to be dealing with such an important proposal on the fly in the midst of a budget bill.

“This should go through the legislative process. It’s the last day. We should be dealing with the budget issues and sticking with the budget issues,” Jauch said.

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