



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2013 Senate Bill 324

**Senate Amendment 1 and
Senate Amendment 2 to Senate
Amendment 1**

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Current Law

Under current law, in-person absentee voting may be conducted between the third Monday preceding the election and 5 p.m. or the close of business, whichever is later, on the Friday preceding the election. Current law does not limit the days or times that a municipality may hold in-person absentee voting during that period.

Senate Bill 324

Senate Bill 324 provides that in-person absentee voting may only be conducted Monday to Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. during the timeframe provided under current law. However, the bill allows an individual to vote in-person absentee outside of the designated hours, or anytime on Saturday or Sunday, if the individual makes an appointment with the actual city, town, or village clerk.

Senate Amendment 1

Senate Amendment 1 provides that in-person absentee voting may only be conducted Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., but limits a municipality to 45 total hours of in-person absentee voting per week. The amendment also prohibits in-person absentee voting on a legal holiday. Unlike the original bill, the amendment does not provide for evening or weekend in-person absentee voting by appointment.

Senate Amendment 2 to Senate Amendment 1

Senate Amendment 2 amends Senate Amendment 1 to: (1) apply the 45-hour weekly limit on in-person absentee voting only to statewide elections; (2) allow municipalities to hire

and compensate individuals to assist with in-person absentee voting; and (3) create an appropriation from which municipalities may be partially reimbursed for hiring and compensating these individuals.

First, Senate Amendment 2 provides that a municipality may make no more than 45 hours each week available for in-person absentee voting for any **statewide election**, rather than applying the 45-hour limit to in-person absentee voting at all elections.

Second, Senate Amendment 2 provides that a municipality may hire individuals to assist in receiving in-person absentee ballots for any statewide election and must provide reasonable daily compensation or pay by the hour at a proportionate rate for each hour worked. However, the draft amendment requires the state to reimburse a municipality for 50% of the compensation paid to such individuals, up to 45 hours per week for each individual, during the 2014-15 fiscal year. To receive this reimbursement from the state, a municipality must notify the Department of Revenue (DOR) by July 1, 2015, of the amount paid to individuals to assist with in-person absentee voting for a statewide election. DOR must then make payments from an appropriation created by the amendment.

Finally, Senate Amendment 2 creates a sum sufficient appropriation to reimburse municipalities for compensation paid to individuals who assist with in-person absentee voting.

Bill History

Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senators Grothman and Lazich on March 5, 2014. On March 6, 2014, the Senate Committee on Elections and Urban Affairs recommended adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 4; Noes, 1. The committee then voted to recommend passage, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2.

Senate Amendment 2 to Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Fitzgerald on March 11, 2014, and was adopted by the Senate on the same date on a vote of Ayes, 19; Noes, 14. On the following day, the Senate passed the bill on a vote of Ayes, 17; Noes, 16.

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