



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2013 Senate Bill 459

Senate Substitute Amendment 1

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2013 Senate Bill 459 relates to the requirement for voters to provide proof of residence when registering to vote.

Current Law

Current law requires certain individuals to provide proof of residence when registering to vote. Whether an individual must provide proof of residence when registering to vote depends, in part, upon when the individual registers. An individual who registers to vote within 20 days of the election or at the polls on Election Day is generally required to provide proof of residence, while an individual who registers more than 20 days before the election generally is not.

Under current law, the following documents may be used as proof of residence, among others: a residential lease; a paycheck; a bank statement; a real property tax bill; a document issued by a unit of government; or a utility bill issued within a certain period prior to the election.

Current law also provides that election officials must record certain information relating to proof of residence on the poll list or separate list. Election officials must record the type of identifying document submitted and, if the document includes a number which applies only to the individual holding that document (e.g., a bank account number), the officials must also record that number on the poll list or separate list.

Senate Bill 459

Senate Bill 459 requires all voters, other than military and overseas voters, to provide proof of residence when registering to vote. This requirement applies regardless of when the voter completes his or her registration.

Senate Substitute Amendment 1

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 contains the provisions of Senate Bill 459 and adds the provisions from a second bill, 2013 Senate Bill 267. Like the underlying bill, the substitute amendment requires all voters, other than military and overseas voters, to provide proof of residence when registering to vote.

In addition, the substitute amendment requires the clerk or individual authorized to accept a voter registration form to record on the form the type of document submitted as proof of residence and the name of the entity or institution that issued the document. The clerk or individual must also record the last four digits of a number included on the identifying document that applies only to the individual holding the document, if the document includes such a number. However, if the number on the identifying document has six or fewer digits, the clerk or individual must enter only the last two digits of the number. The registration forms must include a space for this proof of residence information to be recorded.

Further, the substitute amendment eliminates the current law requirement that election officials record on the poll list or separate list a number that applies only to the individual holding the document submitted as proof of residence. Under the amendment, the last four digits of the number (or two digits if the number has six or fewer digits) will be recorded on the voter's registration form, rather than on the poll list or separate list.

Finally, the bill requires the Government Accountability Board to indicate on the official registration list whether an elector had to provide proof of residence and, if so, the type of document the elector submitted, the entity or institution that issued the document, and any number included on the identifying document that applies only to the individual holding that document, up to the last four (or two) digits of that number.

Bill History

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Lazich on February 11, 2014. On February 12, 2014, the Senate Committee on Elections and Urban Affairs voted to recommend adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0. The committee then voted to recommend passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2.

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