



2001 ASSEMBLY BILL 865

February 26, 2002 – Introduced by Representative WALKER. Referred to Committee on Urban and Local Affairs.

1 **AN ACT** *to repeal* 59.17 (1) (a); and *to renumber and amend* 59.17 (1) (b) of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** the office of county executive in populous counties.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law requires that a county executive be elected in counties with a population of at least 500,000 (currently, only Milwaukee County). In other counties, the county board may create the office of county executive. The office may also be created or abolished by petition and referendum.

This bill eliminates the requirement that a county executive be elected in Milwaukee County. The bill provides that any county may, by resolution of the board or by petition and referendum, create the office of county executive. In addition, the office may be abolished by petition and referendum.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 59.17 (1) (a) of the statutes is repealed.

4 **SECTION 2.** 59.17 (1) (b) of the statutes is renumbered 59.17 (1) and amended
5 to read:

6 59.17 (1) **ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE.** ~~Counties with a population of less than~~
7 500,000 A county may by resolution of the board or by petition and referendum create

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1 the office of county executive ~~or abolish it.~~ The office of county executive, whether
2 created by statute or otherwise, may be abolished by petition and referendum. If the
3 office of county executive is abolished, the person serving in the office shall complete
4 the term to which elected. The county executive shall be elected ~~the same as a county~~
5 ~~executive is elected under par. (a)~~ for a term of 4 years commencing with the first
6 spring election occurring at least 120 days after the creation of the office and shall
7 take office on the 3rd Tuesday in April of that year. The county executive shall be
8 elected from residents of the county at large by a majority vote of all qualified electors
9 in the county voting in the election. Such petition and election shall follow the
10 procedure provided in s. 9.20 (1) to (6), except that in case of conflict this subsection
11 shall control.

12 (END)