



2013 ASSEMBLY BILL 125

April 4, 2013 - Introduced by Representatives KESSLER, BEWLEY, BERCEAU and OHNSTAD, cosponsored by Senators L. TAYLOR, RISSER and HARRIS. Referred to Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 304.09 (2) (am) and 304.105 of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 creation of an independent pardon council.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the governor considers all applications for pardon of any person, and the Department of Corrections must, upon the governor's request, make recommendations to the governor as to pardons. This bill creates an independent pardon council, consisting of nine reserve judges appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. The independent pardon council must consider each application for a pardon and make recommendations to the legislature and to the governor.

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

3 **SECTION 1.** 304.09 (2) (am) of the statutes is created to read:
4 304.09 (2) (am) The independent pardon council under s. 304.105.
5 **SECTION 2.** 304.105 of the statutes is created to read:
6 **304.105 Independent pardon council.** (1) There is created an independent
7 pardon council consisting of 9 permanent reserve judges, as defined in s. 753.075 (1)

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1 (a), appointed by the governor, with senate confirmation. At its first meeting in each
2 odd-numbered year the council shall elect a chairperson from among its members.

3 The council shall meet at least quarterly.

4 (2) The independent pardon council shall consider each application for a
5 pardon. Three-member panels of the council members shall, using procedures the
6 council establishes, hear testimony and make a recommendation for or against
7 pardon on each application. The recommendation of the panel is the
8 recommendation of the council. The council shall report its recommendations to the
9 legislature and to the governor.

10 (3) Members of the independent pardon council may not be compensated for
11 their services, but the members shall be reimbursed from the appropriation account
12 under s. 20.525 (1) (a) for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the
13 performance of their duties.

14 (4) Section 15.09 does not apply to the independent pardon council.

15 (END)