

1971 Senate Bill 861

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CHAPTER 257, Laws of 1971

AN ACT to create 229.26 of the statutes, relating to the establishment of a board to govern a convention complex and exposition center in cities of the 1st class.

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

229.26 of the statutes is created to read:

229.26 EXPOSITION CENTER. (1) Any city of the 1st class may in addition to all other powers conferred upon it establish and maintain a convention complex and exposition center, hereinafter termed "convention institution", for the purpose of holding conventions, public meetings, expositions, exhibits, trade shows, gatherings, conferences and other related purposes of a public nature which are hereby declared to be public purposes.

(2) The building, maintenance and operation of the convention institution shall be under the complete and autonomous control of a board which shall act independently and shall be designated as the "Exposition Center Board". Such board shall be composed of the number of members as provided for by resolution adopted by the common council of such city. The common council shall prescribe the terms of members of the board and shall designate the manner in which they shall be selected. The board may sue and be sued.

(3) The board shall have complete maintenance, supervision, control and operation of the convention institution and it shall regulate, control and designate the use thereof. The board shall also fix the terms and conditions for its use and do all things necessary for the maintenance and operation thereof and it shall handle all finances of the convention institution.

(4) Title to all property real or personal of the convention institution shall be in the name of such city and shall be held by such city perpetually for such purposes, but the board shall determine the use to which such property shall be devoted as provided for in this section.

(5) The common council of such city may appropriate such sums as may be required to supplement revenues of the convention institution in order for the board to regulate, control and operate the convention institution. The board may receive gifts and contributions from any source as in the judgment of such board shall be consistent and in keeping with the general operations and public purpose of the convention institution.

(6) The common council may by resolution adopted by it impose additional duties and responsibilities upon the board in connection with the operation, maintenance and control of such convention institution, however, the board shall itself determine the manner in which such operation shall be performed.

(7) In addition to all other powers of the board, the board may hire and retain personnel including the selection of a general manager for the convention institution and the board shall determine the manner of selection of all of its employes. The board shall establish the compensation for its personnel but shall relate as far as possible to general wage rates of such city of the 1st class for comparable work performed. The board may also enter into contracts on behalf of the board without first obtaining approval of the common council of such city and such contracts may be entered into with respect to all matters which relate to the operation, control and use of the convention institution as determined by the board.

(8) The board shall report annually or more frequently as the common council so determines with respect to all receipts and disbursements of the board, balances of the board's funds and all other matters which bear upon the board's operations. Expenditures made by the board from funds under its control shall not require prior approval of the common council of such city.
