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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

**2009-10**

(session year)

**Senate**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Labor, Elections, and Urban  
Affairs (SC-LEUA)**

### **COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

### **INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL**

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
  - (**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
  - (**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**



### Appearances for Information Only

- David Becker — Pew Center on the States
- Justin Levitt — Brennan Center for Justice
- Sue Edman — City of Milwaukee
- Diane Hermann-Brown — Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association
- Bob Ohlsen — Dane County
- Becky Simpson — Village of Dane
- Vikki Zuehlke — Village of Waterford

### Registrations For

- Joanne Ricca — Wisconsin State AFL-CIO
- Beverly Speer — Wisconsin Democracy Campaign
- Scott Spector — AFT-Wisconsin
- Christa Peters — AFT-Wisconsin
- Jorna Taylor
- Kim Warkentin
- Mark Reihl — Wisconsin State Council of Carpenters
- Bethany Ordaz — SEIU
- Susan McMurray — AFSCME
- Doug Burnett — AFSCME International
- Matt Brusky — Citizen Action of Wisconsin
- Anne Sayers — Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters
- Shirley Haidinger
- Bruce Speight — WISPIRG
- Kristen Crowell
- Kathy Daggo

### Registrations Against

- Jim Ott — Representative
- Sue Peck — Wisconsin Municipal Clerks
- Sheryl Schevermann — City of Weyauwega
- Melissa Klein — Town of Ottawa
- Barb Whitmore
- Sherri Endres — Town of Springfield
- Karen Stritchko — City of South Milwaukee
- Norm Reynolds
- Gayle Reynolds
- Chris Reynolds
- Edith Gamble
- Larry Gamble
- Theresa Gamble
- Tom Burns
- Jeraldine Poland
- Andrew Davis — Republican Party of Wisconsin
- Jack Poland

- Shelley Mathison
- Steven Welcenbach
- Roberto Dean
- Nicholas Mundt
- Kristen Lombard
- Thomas Preusker
- Ruth Ann Burns
- Michele Dake
- Tina Dake
- Nona Schwann
- Jay Hoogstra
- Todd Wule
- Curt LaSage
- Jennifer Bartel

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

April 1, 2010

**EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (5) Senators Coggs, Wirch, Lehman, A. Lasee and Grothman.  
 Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Grothman, seconded by Senator A. Lasee that **Senate Substitute Amendment LRB 0383 /1** be recommended for introduction and adoption.

Ayes: (2) Senators A. Lasee and Grothman.  
 Noes: (3) Senators Coggs, Wirch and Lehman.

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF SENATE  
 SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT LRB 0383 /1 NOT  
 RECOMMENDED, Ayes 2, Noes 3

Moved by Senator Grothman, seconded by Senator A. Lasee that **Senate Substitute Amendment LRB 0384 /1** be recommended for introduction and adoption.

Ayes: (2) Senators A. Lasee and Grothman.  
 Noes: (3) Senators Coggs, Wirch and Lehman.

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF SENATE  
 SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT LRB 0384 /1 NOT  
 RECOMMENDED, Ayes 2, Noes 3

Moved by Senator Grothman, seconded by Senator A. Lasee that **Senate Amendment LRB 1984 /1** be recommended for introduction and adoption.

Ayes: (2) Senators A. Lasee and Grothman.  
Noes: (3) Senators Coggs, Wirch and Lehman.

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF SENATE  
AMENDMENT LRB 1984 /1 NOT RECOMMENDED, Ayes 2,  
Noes 3

Moved by Senator Grothman, seconded by Senator A. Lasee that **Senate Amendment LRB 1985 /1** be recommended for introduction and adoption.

Ayes: (2) Senators A. Lasee and Grothman.  
Noes: (3) Senators Coggs, Wirch and Lehman.

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF SENATE  
AMENDMENT LRB 1985 /1 NOT RECOMMENDED, Ayes 2,  
Noes 3

Moved by Senator Grothman, seconded by Senator Lehman that **Senate Amendment LRB 1988 /2** be recommended for introduction and adoption.

Ayes: (4) Senators Wirch, Lehman, A. Lasee and  
Grothman.  
Noes: (1) Senator Coggs.

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF SENATE  
AMENDMENT LRB 1988 /2 RECOMMENDED, Ayes 4, Noes 1

Moved by Senator Lehman, seconded by Senator Wirch that **Senate Bill 640** be recommended for passage as amended.

Ayes: (3) Senators Coggs, Wirch and Lehman.  
Noes: (2) Senators A. Lasee and Grothman.

PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 3, Noes 2



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Adam Plotkin  
Committee Clerk

# Vote Record

## Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs

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Date: Thursday, April 1, 2010

Moved by: LEHMAN      Seconded by: WIRCH

AB \_\_\_\_\_ SB 640 \_\_\_\_\_ Clearinghouse Rule \_\_\_\_\_  
 AJR \_\_\_\_\_ SJR \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment \_\_\_\_\_  
 AR \_\_\_\_\_ SR \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

Be recommended for: As Amended  
 Passage     Adoption     Confirmation     Concurrence     Indefinite Postponement  
 Introduction     Rejection     Tabling     Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
<b>Senator Spencer Coggs, Chair</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Robert Wirch</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator John Lehman</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Alan Lasee</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Glenn Grothman</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Totals:</b>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	_____	_____

*passage as amended*

Motion Carried       Motion Failed

Vote Record

**Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs**

Date: 4/1/10 → became SAI - SB640  
Bill Number: LRB a 1988/2  
Moved by: Grothman Seconded by: Lehman  
Motion: introduction + adoption  
- change 1988 from state to county

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Spencer Coggs, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Wirch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator John Lehman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Alan Lasee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Glenn Grothman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

Motion Carried       Motion Failed

Vote Record

**Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs**

Date: 4/1/10  
Bill Number: RB LRB 50383/1 → not introduced  
Moved by: Grothman Seconded by: Lasee  
Motion: introduction + passage adoption

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Spencer Coggs, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Wirch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator John Lehman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Alan Lasee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Glenn Grothman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

# Vote Record

## Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs

Date: 4/1/10  
Bill Number: LRB 0384/1 → not introduced  
Moved by: Grothman Seconded by: Lasee  
Motion: introduction + adoption

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Spencer Coggs, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Wirch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator John Lehman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Alan Lasee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Glenn Grothman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

# Vote Record

## Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs

Date: 4/1/10 → not introduced  
Bill Number: LRB a1984/1  
Moved by: Grothman Seconded by: Lasee  
Motion: introduction + adoption

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Spencer Coggs, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Wirch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator John Lehman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Alan Lasee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Glenn Grothman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Vote Record

**Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs**

Date: 4/1/80  
Bill Number: LRB a 1985/1 → not introduced  
Moved by: Grothman      Seconded by: Lasee  
Motion: introduction + adoption

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Spencer Coggs, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Wirch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator John Lehman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Alan Lasee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Glenn Grothman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

**Plotkin, Adam**

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**From:** Phil Neuenfeldt [pneuenfeldt@wisafcio.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2010 10:00 AM  
**Subject:** Support for Voter Protection Act  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg



**To:** Members of the Legislature  
**From:** Phil Neuenfeldt, Secretary-Treasurer  
**Date:** March 26, 2010  
**Re:** **Support for SB 640/AB 895: Wisconsin Voter Protection Act**

Wisconsin has a proud tradition that tries to ensure that every voice is heard. To continue to meet that high standard our state needs to remove procedural barriers that exist between voters and the voting booth. Even the reference to a voting booth is outdated since technology provides new opportunities to give greater numbers of people a voice through their vote.

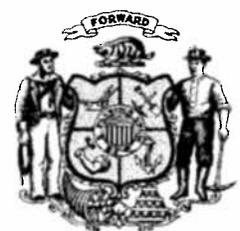
The Voter Protection Act is a broad package of election reforms that will substantially improve an individual's access to the voting process. The Voter Protection Act will facilitate voter registration by automatically placing an eligible individual on the voter rolls when they interact with designated state agencies. It will protect the rights of those in the military and their family members by making it easier for them to access absentee ballots. It expands opportunities for early voting to maximize participation. It includes provisions to protect voters from intentional intimidation that is meant to discourage voting.

Our nation has come a long way since the days when some states required a literacy test in order to vote, and one state had a "sunset law" that required the polls to close before factories let out for the day. But there are still too many ways in which voting is discouraged, even when that is unintended. The various improvements to the system that are included in the Voter Protection Act will expand participation, modernize election procedures, give voters the confidence that their rights will be protected, and ensure that the integrity of our elections will be upheld. We ask your support for these reforms.

PN/JR/mj:opeiu#9,afl-cio,clc



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



# State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE WILLIAM EICH  
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY  
Director and General Counsel

## **JOINT PUBLIC HEARING**

2009 Senate Bill 640 and 2009 Assembly Bill 895

**Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs  
Assembly Committee on Elections and Campaign Reform**

Testimony of Kevin J. Kennedy  
Director and General Counsel  
Government Accountability Board  
March 31, 2010

Chairperson Coggs, Chairperson Smith, Senate and Assembly Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony with respect to 2009 Senate Bill 640 and 2009 Assembly Bill 895 on behalf of the Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.). The agency strongly supports several elements of the proposed legislation because they are drawn from initiatives proposed by the G.A.B. The agency also appreciates the opportunity to have worked with and to continue to work with the Legislature on those elements in the legislation that are not part of the G.A.B.'s legislative initiatives. We believe the legislation continues Wisconsin's commitment to accessible, fair and transparent elections. This in turn will maintain the highest degree of confidence in our electoral system by all participants in the electoral process.

### **Military and Overseas Voting**

The proposed legislation implements the Military and Overseas Voters Empowerment (MOVE) legislation recently enacted by Congress. This is one of the top legislative priorities of the G.A.B. In December of last year, Board Members directed staff to work with the Legislature to ensure Wisconsin law was consistent with the new federal requirements to facilitate voting by military and overseas electors.

MOVE requires a 45-day transit time for the mailing and return of absentee ballots to military and overseas electors. Given the short period of time between our September primary and the general election in November, Wisconsin has adopted a number of administrative initiatives to facilitate the transmittal and return of absentee ballots to military and overseas electors.

Before the Board made its recommendations, I met with several members of these Committees, the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance and representatives of the Governor to discuss the impact of MOVE on the continued conduct of our September partisan primary. At the time there was no commitment to initiate a change in the timing of the September primary.

MOVE permits states unable to guarantee a 45-day transit and return for these absentee ballots because of the timing of its primary to request a waiver for each election. The G.A.B. has authorized me to apply for a waiver on behalf of the State. This bill also directs the G.A.B. to study the issue and report back to the Legislature at the beginning of 2011 on the impact of changing the date of the partisan primary.

The Government Accountability Board appreciates the efforts of the Legislature to implement the requirements of the MOVE Act on behalf of Wisconsin's military and overseas voters.

### **Reducing Administrative Costs Related to In-Person Absentee Voting**

Following the 2008 Presidential Election, I directed the Government Accountability Board staff to examine the possibility of implementing elements of early voting to reduce the administrative costs associated with the high number of electors casting absentee ballots in-person. The staff gathered extensive research, held informational hearings and presented a report to the Government Accountability Board in December of last year.

The Board reviewed the report along with extensive public comment on the staff proposals. The Government Accountability Board directed staff to submit a series of specific recommendations along with the report to the Legislature. The Board's recommendations were designed to address the administrative issues that were hampering local election officials' ability to prepare for Election Day when inundated by the large number of electors voting absentee ballots in-person before Election Day.

These bills incorporate most of the Government Accountability Board's recommendations to streamline the in-person absentee voting process. The Government Accountability Board appreciates the consideration given to its recommendations.

### **Voter Registration Modernization**

The proposed legislation directs the Government Accountability Board to work with other state agencies and to use all feasible means to facilitate the preparation and maintenance of the state voter list. When this effort was shared with our staff, we recommended the Committee Chairs consult with the PEW Center on the States which has been studying voter registration modernization for the past year. Modernizing the voter registration process through the increased use of technology should improve the accuracy, reduce the cost and increase the efficiency of Wisconsin's voter registration procedures.

### **Absentee Voting**

The proposed legislation permits voters to request an absentee ballot for all elections. This is an approach used in many other states to reduce the congestion at the polling place in large elections as well as facilitate participation in low turnout elections. It also reduces the need for increased poll workers at large turnout elections.

Wisconsin currently permits military voters and electors who are indefinitely confined due to age, illness or disability to automatically receive absentee ballots. In addition, any voter may request an absentee ballot be automatically sent to them for every election in a calendar year.

I suggest the Committee consider two changes to this initiative. The first would be to require the return postage be paid by the voter for all absentee ballots except military voters. Overseas voters are already required to pay the costs to return their voted ballots. Wisconsin law permits an absentee ballot to be hand-delivered to the municipal clerk's office or the polling place. This is one small step that could yield significant cost savings for local election officials.

The second recommendation is to require permanent absentee voters who do not return an absentee ballot after the primary to remain on the list unless the voter also fails to return an absentee ballot for the election associated with the primary.

### **Protect Wisconsin Voters from Intimidation and Vote Suppression**

This element of the legislation builds on proposals considered earlier in the legislative session. At the time, I expressed my concern about the timing requirements of some of the provisions. It appears many of the elements of this legislation address those concerns.

### **Reducing Administrative Barriers for Local Election Officials**

The Government Accountability Board identified a number of technical issues that repeatedly raised questions about the day-to-day administration of elections. These bills incorporate many of our recommendations to clarify these administrative issues. In addition the legislation incorporates a number of other proposals designed make administration of elections easier for local election officials and poll workers.

### **Conclusion**

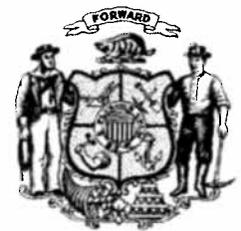
Thank you for including key elements of our legislative initiatives in these bills along with our comments on the other provisions of the legislation. The Government Accountability Board staff is available to answer any questions or provide further assistance during consideration of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Kennedy  
Director and General Counsel  
Government Accountability Board  
(608) 266-8005  
[Kevin.Kennedy@wi.gov](mailto:Kevin.Kennedy@wi.gov)



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



- ▶ Home
- ▶ Lobbying in Wisconsin
- ▶ Organizations employing lobbyists
- ▶ Lobbyists

Presented by the Wisconsin  
Government Accountability Board

as of Tuesday, March 30, 2010

**2009-2010 legislative session**  
**Legislative bills and resolutions**

(search for another legislative bill or resolution at the bottom of this page)

**Senate Bill 640**

various changes in election laws, granting rule-making authority, and providing penalties. (FE)

**TEXT**  
sponsors  
LRB analysis

**STATUS**  
committee actions and  
votes  
text of amendments

**COST & HOURS**  
of lobbying efforts  
directed at this  
proposal

Organization		These organizations have reported lobbying on this proposal:	Place pointer on icon to display comments, click icon to display prior comments		
Profile	Interests		Date Notified	Position	Comments
◆	◆	AFSCME International	3/30/2010	↑	
◆	◆	Citizen Action of Wisconsin	3/25/2010	↑	
◆	◆	Wisconsin Democracy Campaign	3/24/2010	↑	
◆	◆	Wisconsin State AFL-CIO	3/27/2010	↑	

Select a legislative proposal and click "go"

**House**

**Proposal Type**

**Proposal Number**  (enter proposal number)

**Legislative Session**