



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2013 Assembly Bill 393

Assembly Amendment 1

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Contact: Katie Bender-Olson, Staff Attorney (266-2988)

Current Law

Current law generally requires that an individual be a qualified elector of the municipality to serve as an election official in that municipality, and requires the individual to be a qualified elector of the ward to serve as an election official at the polling place for that ward. Additionally, a 16- or 17-year old high school student who meets certain criteria may serve as an election inspector (poll worker), but only at the polling place serving the student's residence.

Current law provides a process for the nomination and appointment of election inspectors that involves participation by the political parties. The two major parties whose candidates for governor or president at the last general election received the largest number of votes at an individual polling place (typically, the Republican and Democratic parties) may submit a list of nominees to be appointed to serve as election inspectors. If the parties submit lists of nominees, the board of election commissioners or municipal governing body *must* use the lists to appoint election inspectors. Election inspectors may only be appointed without regard to political party affiliation if the parties fail to submit lists of nominees.

2013 Assembly Bill 393

Assembly Bill 393 expands the residency requirement for certain election officials to allow individuals from the county to serve, rather than requiring that individuals be from the particular municipality or ward. The bill provides that an individual who serves at a polling place on Election Day must be a qualified elector of a county in which the municipality where the official serves is located. However, the chief inspector at each polling place must still be a qualified elector of the municipality, and a high school student is still limited to serving at the polling place for his or her residence.

Assembly Amendment 1

Assembly Amendment 1 establishes priority for the appointment of election inspectors from the municipality, if the political parties do not submit lists of nominees. The amendment provides that the board of election commissioners or local government official “shall give priority to” qualified electors of the municipality for which no list of nominees was submitted. However, if an insufficient number of electors from the municipality are identified, then the board of election commissioners or local official may appoint or nominate qualified electors from a county where the municipality is located.

Bill History

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Bernier on October 15, 2013. On the following day, the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections voted to recommend adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 0. The committee then voted to recommend passage of Assembly Bill 393, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 4.

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