



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2017 Senate Bill 582

**Senate
Amendment 3**

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2017 SENATE BILL 582

2017 Senate Bill 582 (“the bill”) modifies the standard for removal of certain appointed county officers, who may currently only be removed for cause, which is defined to mean “inefficiency, neglect of duty, official misconduct, or malfeasance in office.” The bill provides that these county officers may generally be removed at pleasure by the appointing authority, except for individuals who are subject to a civil service law. The bill also allows a county to provide by ordinance that any county officer may only be removed for cause.

SENATE AMENDMENT 3

Relative to the bill, Senate Amendment 3 (“the amendment”) limits a county’s authority to impose a for cause removal standard by ordinance. The amendment specifies that such a county ordinance may only apply to individuals who are appointed by or serve at the pleasure of the county board or chairperson.

The amendment also generally extends the provisions in the bill to apply to appointed city officers. Under the amendment, certain appointed city officers may be removed at pleasure by the appointing authority, except as otherwise provided in a civil service law or city ordinance. In addition, the amendment also states that a city’s common council may remove any individual who was appointed by another officer or body for cause.

Additionally, the amendment specifies that a member of a board of police and fire commissioners who is appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the common council may be removed by the common council, for cause.

BILL HISTORY

Senate Amendment 3 was offered by Senator Olsen on January 23, 2018. On January 24, 2018, the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Commerce, and Local Government recommended adoption of Senate Amendment 3 on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 2. The committee then recommended passage of 2017 Senate Bill 582, as amended, on a vote of Ayes 5; Noes, 2.

SG:jal