
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2019 Assembly Bill 661

Assembly Amendment 1

2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 661

2019 Assembly Bill 661 contains provisions related to the appointment, removal, and wages of a town official; the process for appealing the denial of a temporary use permit; the process of providing notice of a Board of Review proceeding; and the methods of providing notice under the Open Meetings Law.

With respect to the method that a governmental body must use when providing notice of a meeting under the Open Meetings Law, **current law** provides that notice must be given by communication of the chief presiding officer of the governmental body, or that person's designee, to all of the following:

- The public.
- Any news media who have filed a written request for such notice.
- To the official newspaper designated under provisions found in ch. 985, Stats., related to publication of legal notices, or if none exists, to a news medium likely to give notice in the area.

The Open Meetings Law does not specify the method that a governmental body must use when providing notice to the public. **The bill** amends the Open Meetings Law to specify that when a governmental body provides an open meetings notice to the public, the notice must be given by communication **using a publication or posting method described in s. 985.02, Stats.** (the methods authorized under current law for purposes of giving legal notice).

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 amends the provision of the bill that specifies how an open meetings notice must be given to the public. Specifically, the bill deletes the general cross reference to a publication or posting method described in s. 985.02, Stats., and instead, expressly states that the following publication or posting methods may be used to give an open meetings notice to the public:

- Posting notice in at least three public places likely to give notice to persons affected.
- Posting a notice in at least one public place likely to give notice to persons affected and placing a notice electronically on the governmental body's Internet site.
- By paid publication in a news medium likely to give notice to persons affected.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Amendment 1 was introduced on February 6, 2020, by Representative Quinn. On February 18, 2020, the Assembly voted to adopt the amendment, and pass the bill, as amended, on voice votes.

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