



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2019 Senate Bill 178

Senate Amendment 1

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2019 SENATE BILL 178

Under current law, cities, villages, towns, and counties (political subdivisions) must comply with specified annual budget procedures. 2019 Senate Bill 178 authorizes these political subdivisions to adopt and operate under a biennial budget. With limited exceptions, political subdivisions that adopt and implement a biennial budget must do so in accordance with the same procedures that currently apply to annual budgets. If a political subdivision decides to adopt a biennial budget, it must do so in an odd-numbered year to begin in the subsequent even-numbered year. A political subdivision may return to using an annual budget by a two-thirds majority vote of its governing body.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 modifies the bill in the following three ways:

First, the bill repeals a provision under current law specific to Milwaukee County that requires the county board's finance committee to include comparative figures and a statement of the county's bonded indebtedness in its Class 1 notice publication¹ of the county executive's proposed budget summary. The amendment restores this requirement.

Second, current law provides a list of information that must be included in a political subdivision's proposed annual budget. Information that must be provided includes the following: (1) actual revenues and expenditures for the preceding year; (2) actual revenues and expenditures for not less than the **first six months** of the **current year**; and (3) estimated

¹ A "Class 1 notice" requires publication of the legal notice once a week, for one week in a local newspaper that is qualified to publish a legal notice. [ss. 985.03 and 985.07 (1), Stats.]

revenues and expenditures for the balance of the current year. The bill provides that the same information must be provided for a biennial budget.

The amendment increases the number of months of actual revenues and expenditures that must be included for the current budget period. Specifically, under the amendment, a political subdivision must include the actual revenues and expenditures for not less than **18 months** of the current **budget period**, rather than only for the first **six months** of the **current year**.

Third, under current law, changes may generally be made to an annual budget by a two-thirds vote of a governing body's members. Cities, villages, and counties must publish a Class 1 notice of any such changes within 15 days after the change is made. Failure to give the notice precludes the governing body from being able to make any changes. The bill repeals the requirement that a notice of such changes be published. The amendment restores the requirement that a notice be published and provides that the notice may be given by publication of a Class 1 notice or by posting the notice to the municipality's website within 15 days after any change is made.

BILL HISTORY

Senate Amendment 1 was introduced by Senator Kooyenga on May 17, 2019. On May 28, 2019, the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Technology, and Consumer Protection recommended adoption of the amendment and passage of Senate Bill 178, as amended, on subsequent votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

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