



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2019 Senate Bill 193

**Senate
Amendment 1**

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2019 SENATE BILL 193

Senate Bill 193 creates an optional procedure for processing in-person absentee ballots, called the “absentee voting efficiency option” (AVEO), which a municipality may adopt if certified to do so by the Wisconsin Elections Commission. The AVEO process allows a voter to feed his or her in-person absentee ballot into the electronic voting machine at the clerk’s office, rather than sealing the ballot in an envelope that is opened on Election Day. Though ballots under the AVEO process are cast directly into an electronic voting machine, the votes are not tabulated until Election Day. The municipal clerk must publish the number of absentee ballots cast using the AVEO process each day. The bill also makes it a felony for a person to know or provide information about the accumulating or final results of ballots cast using the AVEO process.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 makes the following changes to AVEO procedures created under Senate Bill 193:

- Provides that a voter does not have to state his or her name and address aloud to obtain an in-person absentee ballot if otherwise exempt from the requirement.
- Allows the AVEO process to be used at a location designated by the chief election official, rather than only at the municipal clerk’s office.
- Requires that two “election officials” must be present for AVEO voting and for any administrative process requiring access to a sealed area and the breaking of a tamper-evidence security seal.

- Requires a municipality that hires additional election officials to administer AVEO voting to assign an equal number from the nominees of each political party, insofar as practicable.
- Provides that a second person, in addition to the municipal clerk, must seal ballots cast using the AVEO process in numbered and tamper-evident ballot bags every day.
- Requires that a municipality seeking certification from the Elections Commission to use the AVEO process must submit its plan for review no later than 90 days prior to the start of AVEO voting, instead of 60 days prior.
- Requires a municipality certified to conduct AVEO voting to specifically notify the county clerk or county chief election officer at least 70 days before each election at which the municipality is using the AVEO process.

BILL HISTORY

Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Craig on June 11, 2019. The Senate Committee on Elections, Ethics, and Rural Issues adopted Senate Amendment 1 on June 12, 2019, on a vote of Ayes, 4; Noes, 0. The committee then voted for passage of Senate Bill 193, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2.

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