



## 2019 SENATE BILL 71

March 1, 2019 - Introduced by Senators JACQUE, BERNIER and CARPENTER, cosponsored by Representatives SORTWELL, BROOKS, EDMING, FELZKOWSKI, GUNDRUM, HORLACHER, PLUMER, RAMTHUN, SKOWRONSKI, TUSLER and WICHGERS. Referred to Committee on Elections, Ethics and Rural Issues.

1     **AN ACT** *to create* 5.05 (11m) and 20.510 (1) (f) of the statutes; **relating to:** aids  
2             to counties and municipalities for certain special election costs and making an  
3             appropriation.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill requires the Elections Commission to reimburse counties and municipalities for certain costs incurred in the administration of special primaries and special elections for state or national office. A cost is eligible for reimbursement only if certain conditions are met, including that the commission determines the cost is reasonable and the rate paid by the county or municipality for the cost does not exceed the rate customarily paid for similar costs at a primary or election that is not a special primary or election. Under the bill, only the following costs may be reimbursed:

1. Rental payments for polling places.
2. Election day wages paid to election officials working at the polls.
3. Costs for the publication of required election notices.
4. Printing and postage costs for absentee ballots and envelopes.
5. Costs for the design and printing of ballots and poll books.
6. Purchase of ballot bags or containers, including ties or seals for chain of custody purposes.
7. Costs to program electronic voting machines.
8. Purchase of memory devices for electronic voting machines.
9. Wages paid to conduct a county canvass.

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10. Data entry costs for a statewide voter registration system.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 5.05 (11m) of the statutes is created to read:

2           **5.05 (11m) AIDS TO COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES FOR CERTAIN SPECIAL ELECTION**  
3 COSTS. (a) From the appropriation under s. 20.510 (1) (f), the commission shall  
4 reimburse counties and municipalities for costs incurred in the administration of  
5 special primaries for state or national office and special elections for state or national  
6 office.

7           (b) A cost is eligible for reimbursement under par. (a) only if all of the following  
8 apply:

9           1. The commission determines that the cost is reasonable.

10           2. The cost is specified under par. (c).

11           3. If applicable, the commission determines that the rate paid by the county or  
12 municipality for the cost does not exceed the rate customarily paid for similar costs  
13 at a primary or election that is not a special primary or election.

14           4. If the special primary or election coincides with a primary or election that  
15 is not a special primary or election, the commission determines that the cost does not  
16 exceed the amount that would be incurred if the primaries or elections did not  
17 coincide.

18           (c) Only the following costs are eligible for reimbursement under par. (a):

19           1. Rental payments for polling places.

