



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 158 [2003 Senate Bill 287]	Municipal Health Departments
2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/	Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

2003 Wisconsin Act 158 relates to local health departments that are jointly established by more than one municipality. Specifically, the Act authorizes municipalities in Milwaukee County to establish multiple municipal local health departments and also authorizes city-city local health departments in a county if specified conditions are met.

Before Act 158, the statutes authorized county health departments, city-county health departments, multiple county health departments, city health departments (limited to those established before January 1, 1994), village health departments (limited to Milwaukee and Racine Counties), and town health departments (limited to Racine County). In addition, the statutes authorized multiple municipal health departments, but prior to Act 158, the statutes authorizing such departments were limited to Racine County.

Act 158 amended the statutes to provide that in Milwaukee County, the governing body of a city or village may establish, jointly with the governing body of another city or village, a multiple municipal local health department. In addition, the statutes provide that the governing body of a city with a city health department may, in concert with the governing body of another city with a city health department, in the same county, establish a city-city health department and elect a local health officer. [The Department of Health and Family Services lists local health departments on its Web site at http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/dph_ops/LocalHealth/pdf_files/LPHD022604.pdf. That Web site indicates that in addition to Milwaukee and Racine Counties, the only other county that has more than one noncounty local health department is Winnebago County, which has a county health department and three city health departments.]

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.

Act 158 also provides that after establishing a multiple municipal local health department or a city-city health department, the governing body of any participating city, village, or town may withdraw by giving written notice to the local board of health and to the governing bodies of all other participating cities, villages, and towns. This notice must be given at least one year prior to commencement of the fiscal year in which the withdrawal takes effect.

Effective Date: The Act takes effect on March 31, 2004.

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March 24, 2004

RNS:jal:tl;rv