



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 3
[2005 Assembly Bill 94]

**Combined Protective Services in
Certain Villages**

Current law authorizes villages with a population of less than 20,000 to provide police and fire protection services by:

1. Creating a department, which is neither a police or fire department, in which the same person may be required to perform police protection and fire protection duties if the department was created before January 1, 1987; or
2. Requiring persons in a police department or fire department, alone or in combination with persons designated as police officers or firefighters, to perform both police protection and fire protection duties, if those persons were required to perform those duties before January 1, 1987. Section 61.66, Stats.

It appears that the Village of Ashwaubenon is the only village providing for combined protective services under the authority granted in s. 61.66, Stats. The village has a public safety department to provide police and fire services. Because the village is approaching a population of 20,000, there was concern that the authority to continue the public safety department would be unclear once the 20,000 population threshold is met.

2005 Wisconsin Act 3 removes the current population threshold, thus applying the current provision on combined protective services to a village of any population. However, because the statute continues to provide that local provision for combined protective services must have been instituted before January 1, 1987, deletion of the population threshold will not affect any village other than the Village of Ashwaubenon.

Effective Date: The Act takes effect on May 14, 2005.

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May 10, 2005

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.