



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 179
[2013 Senate Bill 262]

**Labeling of
Duplicate Ballots**

2013 Wisconsin Act 179 relates to the manner in which election officials must label a duplicate ballot that is made to replace a damaged or overvoted ballot.

Prior Law

Prior law did not specify where on a duplicate ballot certain labels must be placed. A duplicate of a voter's ballot is created by election officials under certain circumstances. If a ballot is damaged or defective such that it cannot be properly counted by the automatic tabulating equipment, then the officials make a duplicate that includes all votes from the voter's original ballot so that the machine may count the votes. If a ballot is overvoted because the voter wrote in votes for more candidates than the number of votes to be cast for the office, then the officials make a duplicate that includes all votes from the voter's original ballot, except the votes for the office that was overvoted.

Election officials must label the original ballot as "Damaged Ballot" or "Overvoted Ballot," as appropriate, and must label the duplicate ballot as "Duplicate Damaged Ballot" or "Duplicate Overvoted Ballot." The officials must also place a number on each damaged or overvoted ballot and place the same number on its corresponding duplicate. Prior law did not specify where on the ballot election officials were to place these labels, so duplicate ballots created by different election inspectors could bear labels in different locations.

Act 179

Act 179 specifies that the labels must be placed in the space on the ballot for official endorsement. The Act further requires the Government Accountability Board to include on each ballot form, in the space for official endorsement, markings or spaces for identifying an

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.wisconsin.gov>.

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(OVER)

overvoted, duplicate overvoted, damaged, or duplicate damaged ballot and for writing in an identifying serial number.

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