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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

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**2005 Assembly Bill 295**

**Assembly  
Amendments 1 and 3 and  
Senate Amendment 1**

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Current law specifies that when a town is divided into wards, the annual town meeting and special town elections must be held in the first ward. Current law authorizes a town board to meet in the town, or in any city, village, or town within or adjoining the town. Further, an annual town meeting or special town meeting may be held in the town or in any city or village within or adjoining the town. Current law requires the first town meeting in new towns to be held at the location designated in the documents which established the town. The location of the first town meeting may be within the town, or within a city or village in the county in which the town is located.

*Assembly Bill 295* specifies that when a town is divided into wards, the annual town meeting and special town elections must be held at the town hall. The bill authorizes a town board to meet and an annual or special town meeting to be held in the town or in any other town, village, or city. The bill further provides that the location of the first town meeting may be within the town, within any other town, or within a city or village in the county in which the town is located.

*Assembly Amendment 1* removes “special town elections” from SECTION 1 of the bill, so that this section provides that when a town is divided into wards, the annual town meeting shall be held at the town hall.

*Assembly Amendment 3* amends SECTION 1 to provide that when a town is divided into wards, the annual town meeting must be held in a location authorized under s. 60.11 (3) (a), Stats. (in the town or in any other town, village, or city in the same county or in an adjoining county); however, the phrase “shall be held at the town hall” is not deleted. Therefore, SECTION 1 of the bill as amended by Assembly Amendments 1 and 3 provides: “When a town is divided into wards, the annual town meeting shall be held in a location authorized under s. 60.11 (3) (a) shall be held at the town hall.” *Senate Amendment 1* is a technical amendment that deletes “shall be held at the town hall” from the previous sentence so that it is grammatical and corresponds to the intent of Assembly Amendment 3.

*Assembly Amendment 3* further specifies that a town board may meet and an annual or special town meeting may be held in the town or in any other town, village, or city in the same county or in an adjoining county.

**Legislative History**

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by the Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Renewable Energy on April 21, 2005. The committee recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0, and recommended passage of the bill, as amended on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 1.

Assembly Amendment 3 was offered by Representatives Gottlieb and LeMahieu on November 8, 2005.

On November 8, 2005, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendments 1 and 3 on voice votes. The Assembly then passed the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 93; Noes, 4.

On February 22, 2006, the Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform introduced Senate Amendment 1, recommended adoption of Senate Amendment 1, and recommended concurrence in Assembly Bill 295 as amended, with all three actions taken on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

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