



State of Wisconsin
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4640/1
MPG:emw

2017 SENATE BILL 581

November 20, 2017 - Introduced by Senators CARPENTER, WIRCH, VINEHOUT, MILLER, RISSER and LARSON, cosponsored by Representatives BARCA, SINICKI, OHNSTAD, ZEPNICK, BERCEAU, ANDERSON, SHANKLAND, SUBECK and POPE. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 238.02 (1); and *to create* 238.081 of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 composition of the board of directors and meetings of the board of directors and
3 formally constituted subunits of the Wisconsin Economic Development
4 Corporation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill establishes certain requirements for meetings of the board of directors of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and formally constituted subunits of the board, such as committees established by the board. Under current law, the state's open meetings requirements apply to WEDC's board and formally constituted subunits of the board. In addition to satisfying those requirements, under the bill, meetings of the board or a formally constituted subunit of the board that are held at least in part in open session must satisfy all of the following:

1. Be conducted at the state capitol unless otherwise approved by the board.
2. Be broadcast to the public in the same manner and to the same extent as legislative committee meetings.
3. Include a period of public comment. Current law generally authorizes, but does not require, a public comment period during which a governmental body may receive information from members of the public.

The bill also increases the membership of WEDC's board by one majority and one minority party member of each house of the legislature, bringing the number of legislative members of the board to eight and the total number of voting members to 16.

SENATE BILL 581

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

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 238.02 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 238.02 (1) There is created an authority, which is a public body corporate and
3 politic, to be known as the “Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.” The
4 members of the board shall consist of 6 members nominated by the governor, and
5 with the advice and consent of the senate appointed, to serve at the pleasure of the
6 governor; ~~3~~ 5 members appointed by the speaker of the assembly, consisting of ~~one~~
7 2 majority and ~~one~~ 2 minority party ~~representative~~ representatives to the assembly,
8 appointed as are the members of standing committees in the assembly, and one
9 person employed in the private sector, to serve at the speaker’s pleasure; and ~~3~~ 5
10 members appointed by the senate majority leader, consisting of ~~one~~ 2 majority and
11 ~~one~~ 2 minority party ~~senator~~ senators, appointed as are members of standing
12 committees in the senate, and one person employed in the private sector, to serve at
13 the majority leader’s pleasure. The secretary of administration and the secretary of
14 revenue shall also serve on the board as nonvoting members. The board shall elect
15 a chairperson from among its nonlegislative voting members.

16 **SECTION 2.** 238.081 of the statutes is created to read:

17 **238.081 Meetings of the corporation.** (1) In this section:

18 (a) “Meeting” has the meaning given in s. 19.82 (2).

19 (b) “Open meeting of the corporation” means a meeting of the board or a
20 committee or other formally constituted subunit of the board that is held at least in
21 part in open session.

SENATE BILL 581

1 (c) "Open session" has the meaning given in s. 19.82 (3).

2 (2) Each open meeting of the corporation shall meet all of the following
3 requirements:

4 (a) Be conducted at the state capitol or, with the prior consent of the board, at
5 such other locations throughout this state as the chairperson of the board or of a
6 formally constituted subunit of the board announces.

7 (b) Be broadcast to the public in the same manner and to the same extent as
8 legislative committee meetings.

9 (c) Include a period of public comment under s. 19.84 (2).

10 (END)