

JOURNAL OF THE ASSEMBLY [May 12, 1976]

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Assembly Journal

Eighty-Second Regular Session

WEDNESDAY, May 12, 1976.

The chief clerk makes the following entries under the above date:

COMMUNICATION

State of Wisconsin
Department of State
Madison

To Whom It May Concern:

Dear Sir: Acts, joint resolutions and resolutions, deposited in this office, have been numbered and published as follows:

Bill, Jt. Res. or Res.	Chapter No.	Publication date
Assembly Bill 22	219	May 3, 1976
Assembly Bill 1040	220	May 3, 1976
Assembly Bill 1415	221	May 3, 1976
Assembly Bill 1227	225	May 7, 1976
Assembly Bill 248	226	May 10, 1976
Assembly Bill 345	227	May 10, 1976
Assembly Bill 444	228	May 10, 1976
Assembly Bill 516	229	May 10, 1976
Assembly Bill 592	230	May 10, 1976
Assembly Bill 599	231	May 11, 1976
Assembly Bill 635	232	May 11, 1976
Assembly Bill 678	233	May 11, 1976
Assembly Bill 708	234	May 11, 1976
Assembly Bill 793	235	May 11, 1976
Assembly Bill 1127	236	May 12, 1976
Assembly Bill 1239	237	May 12, 1976

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Assembly Bill 1244 ----- 238----- May 12, 1976

Respectfully submitted,
DOUGLAS LaFOLLETTE,
Secretary of State.

SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Wisconsin Legislature
Assembly Chambers
Madison

April 29, 1976

As of this date, the following representative is appointed to the
Committee on Labor:

Representative Wayne Wood, Janesville (D-District 48).

NORMAN C. ANDERSON
Speaker

As of this date, the following representative is appointed to the
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs:

Representative Wayne Wood, Janesville (D-District 48).

NORMAN C. ANDERSON
Speaker

As of this date, the following representative is appointed to the
Committee on Municipalities:

Representative Wayne Wood, Janesville (D-District 48).

NORMAN C. ANDERSON
Speaker

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EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Office of the Governor
Madison

To the Honorable, the Assembly:

The following bills, originating in the assembly, have been approved, signed and deposited in the office of the Secretary of State:

Assembly Bill	Chapter No.	Date Approved
1227 -----	225 -----	April 29, 1976
248 -----	226 -----	May 4, 1976
345 -----	227 -----	May 4, 1976
444 -----	228 -----	May 4, 1976
516 -----	229 -----	May 4, 1976
592 -----	230 -----	May 4, 1976
599 -----	231 -----	May 4, 1976
635 -----	232 -----	May 4, 1976
678 -----	233 -----	May 4, 1976
708 -----	234 -----	May 4, 1976
793 -----	235 -----	May 4, 1976
1127 -----	236 -----	May 4, 1976
1239 -----	237 -----	May 4, 1976
1244 -----	238 -----	May 4, 1976
495 -----	255 -----	May 4, 1976
358 -----	256 -----	May 11, 1976
555 -----	257 -----	May 11, 1976
609 -----	258 -----	May 11, 1976
668 -----	259 -----	May 11, 1976
872 -----	260 -----	May 11, 1976
1313 -----	261 -----	May 11, 1976
777 -----	274 -----	May 12, 1976
1 -----	275 -----	May 12, 1976
155 -----	276 -----	May 12, 1976
575 -----	277 -----	May 12, 1976

Respectfully submitted,
PATRICK J. LUCEY,
Governor.

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GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGES

May 4, 1976

To the Honorable, the Assembly:

I am returning **Assembly Bill 184** without my approval.

The bill gives every officer of a political party in Wisconsin the right to request an election recount, dramatically expanding the current law which reserves the right to request a recount to candidates only. In the case of a partisan primary election, **Assembly Bill 184** would allow a candidate or a party officer to request a recount but only of results in that same political party's primary.

Assembly Bill 184 would destroy a sound public policy of long standing in this state: the responsibility for requesting a recount must rest with the candidate. Political candidates should be held to a high standard of accountability for their actions. This bill lowers that standard, and it may well lead to a dramatic -- and expensive -- increase in unnecessary recounts based more on partisan political tactics than reasonable doubt about an election result.

At those times when there is genuine doubt about the outcome of a close election, no candidate would be faulted for requesting a recount. There is no compelling reason to dilute this responsibility by permitting a party officer to make the request.

Election recounts cost money. Though the party requesting a recount must pay two dollars for each ward recounted, the actual cost of a recount is five or six times that amount, a cost that must be paid for by local taxpayers. Insofar as **Assembly Bill 184** would encourage frivolous recounts, it would waste public funds.

Though the term "political party" in the bill is defined in the statutes, there is no definition for "any officer." As written, the bill would not prevent an officer of a political party in one jurisdiction from requesting a recount in some other jurisdiction, a prospect that would make a mockery of the state's recount law.

No public interest is served in permitting officers of political parties to request recounts. The right to request a recount is clear; it is firmly established in the current law. There is no need to expand it beyond the candidate, who, after all, has the most to gain or lose from the electoral process and the recount procedure. **Assembly Bill 184** would make candidates less accountable for their actions while increasing the probability of expensive and

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unnecessary recounts. I hope the Legislature will reconsider its earlier decision and reject this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICK J. LUCEY,

Governor.