



1995 ASSEMBLY BILL 603

October 5, 1995 – Introduced by Representatives OURADA, AINSWORTH, ALBERS, BOYLE, DUFF, GOETSCH, GUNDERSON, HAHN, HANSON, LADWIG, MUSSER, OLSEN, OWENS, PLACHE, SCHNEIDERS, SPRINGER, WIRCH, OTT, SERATTI and GROTHMAN. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber* 19.83; *to amend* 19.84 (2); and *to create* 19.83 (2) of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** public comments and action on public comments at
3 meetings of governmental bodies.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, state and local governmental bodies are required to give public notice of their meetings, which must include the subject matter of the meetings. The attorney general has advised that if there is an item of a general nature listed on the agenda included in the notice, such as “other matters authorized by law”, the governmental body may take up a matter that is not of great public concern even if the matter is not specified in the agenda and, if the matter is urgent, act upon it. See 66 OAG 68, 143, 195 (1977).

This bill provides specifically that public notice of a meeting of a governmental body may include a period of public comment on matters not included in the agenda, during which the body may receive information and discuss any such matter, and, if the matter cannot be adequately dealt with at a future meeting, take action on the matter.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** 19.83 of the statutes is renumbered 19.83 (1).

5 **SECTION 2.** 19.83 (2) of the statutes is created to read:

