

# ENGROSSED 1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 105

March 23, 1999 – Printed by direction of SENATE CHIEF CLERK.

1     **AN ACT to amend** 7.15 (2) (d), 8.05 (3) (d) and (e), 8.06, 9.20 (4), 24.66 (3) (b), 24.66  
2           (4), 32.72 (1), 59.08 (7) (b), 60.62 (2), 60.74 (5) (b), 61.187 (1), 61.46 (1), 62.09 (1)  
3           (a), 64.03 (1), 64.39 (3), 66.01 (8), 66.059 (2m) (b), 66.061 (1) (c), 66.075 (5),  
4           66.504 (2), 66.521 (10) (d), 66.77 (3) (a) 1., 66.94 (4), 67.05 (4) and (5), 67.05 (6a)  
5           (a) 2. a., 67.05 (6m) (b), 67.10 (5) (b), 67.12 (12) (e) 5., 81.01 (3) (b), 86.21 (2) (a),  
6           117.20, 119.48 (4) (b) and (c), 119.49 (1) (b) and (2), 121.91 (3) (a), 197.04 (1) (b)  
7           and (2), 197.10 (2) and 198.19 (1); and **to create** 8.065 and 15.615 of the  
8           statutes; **relating to:** scheduling of referenda by local governments.

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### ***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

#### ***Engrossment information:***

The text of Engrossed 1999 Assembly Bill 105 consists of the bill, as passed by the assembly on March 16, 1999, as affected by the following documents adopted in the assembly on March 2, 1999: Assembly Amendments 1, 4, 5, 6 (part 2, item 3. only) and 9.

#### ***Content of Engrossed 1999 Assembly Bill 105:***

Under current law, referenda are authorized or required to be held by local governments under various laws for various purposes. In some cases, these

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105**

referenda are authorized or required to be held at special elections when no offices appear on the ballot. In most cases, there is no limitation upon the frequency that questions relating to the same subject matter may be submitted.

This bill provides that, unless a more restrictive limitation applies currently, a referendum by a local government may only be held concurrently with the spring primary (held in most election districts in each year), the spring election (held in each year), or on the 2nd Tuesday in September or the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of an odd-numbered year (no election is currently held on those dates), the September primary (held in each even-numbered year) or general election (held in each even-numbered year). However, the bill creates a state referendum appeal board consisting of four members appointed by the elections board, including one individual designated by each of the following: the senate majority leader, the senate minority leader, the speaker of the assembly and the assembly minority leader. The board is empowered to permit a local government to hold a referendum on a date that is not otherwise permitted if the board finds, with the concurrence of at least three members, that an emergency exists which requires the referendum to be held on a date that is not otherwise permitted.

The bill applies to all referenda, including referenda concerning direct legislation (initiative) in cities and villages.

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

1           **SECTION 1.** 7.15 (2) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           7.15 **(2)** (d) Whenever the governing body of any municipality submits any  
3 question to a vote of the electors or whenever a proper recall petition and certificate  
4 are filed under s. 9.10, the municipal clerk shall issue a call for the election and  
5 prepare and distribute ballots as required in the authorization of submission or as  
6 provided in s. 9.10. The date of the referendum shall be established in accordance  
7 with s. 8.065, and shall be fixed by the municipal clerk or board of election  
8 commissioners unless otherwise provided by law or unless the governing body fixes  
9 a date. The ballot for any referendum shall conform to s. 5.64 (2). If there is already  
10 an official municipal referendum ballot for the election, the question may appear on  
11 the same ballot.

12           **SECTION 2.** 8.05 (3) (d) and (e) of the statutes are amended to read:

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105**

1           8.05 (3) (d) The question of adoption of the nonpartisan primary under this  
2 subsection may be submitted to the electors at any ~~regular~~ election authorized under  
3 s. 8.065 held in the town ~~or at a special election called for the purpose~~. When a  
4 petition conforming to the requirements of s. 8.40 signed by at least 20 electors of the  
5 town is filed with the town clerk so requesting, the question shall be submitted to a  
6 vote.

7           (e) Petitions requesting a vote on the question at a regular town election shall  
8 be filed no later than 5 p.m. the last Tuesday in February. When the petition is filed,  
9 the clerk shall check its sufficiency. ~~Whether at a regular or special election, the~~ The  
10 clerk shall give separate notice by one publication in a newspaper at least 5 days  
11 before the election.

12           **SECTION 3.** 8.06 of the statutes is amended to read:

13           **8.06 Special elections may be called.** Towns, cities, villages and school  
14 districts may call special elections for any purpose whenever such action is  
15 authorized or required by law. If an election is called for a special referendum, the  
16 election shall be called and noticed under as provided in s. 8.55.

17           **SECTION 4.** 8.065 of the statutes is created to read:

18           **8.065 Scheduling of referenda. (1)** In this section, “local governmental  
19 unit” has the meaning given in s. 16.97 (7).

20           **(2)** Unless otherwise required by law or unless authorized under sub. (3), a  
21 referendum held by any local governmental unit that is authorized or required by  
22 law to hold a referendum may only be held on the date of the spring primary, spring  
23 election, September primary or general election, or on the 2nd Tuesday in September  
24 or the Tuesday after the first Monday in November of an odd-numbered year.

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105****SECTION 4**

1           **(3)** If a local governmental unit wishes to hold a special referendum on a date  
2 that is not concurrent with an election specified in s. 5.02 (5), (18), (21) or (22) or on  
3 a date other than the 2nd Tuesday in September or the first Tuesday after the first  
4 Monday in November of an odd-numbered year, the local governmental unit may  
5 petition the referendum appeal board for a determination that an emergency exists  
6 with respect to a particular question. The referendum appeal board shall make a  
7 determination within 10 days after receipt of a petition under this subsection. If the  
8 referendum appeal board finds, with the concurrence of at least 3 members, that an  
9 emergency exists which requires a special referendum to be held by a local  
10 governmental unit on a date that is not concurrent with an election specified in s.  
11 5.02 (5), (18), (21) or (22) or on a date other than the 2nd Tuesday in September or  
12 the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of an odd-numbered year, the  
13 board may permit a referendum relating to the question specified in the petition to  
14 be held on a date determined by the local governmental unit.

15           **SECTION 5.** 9.20 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

16           **9.20 (4)** The common council or village board shall, without alteration, either  
17 pass the ordinance or resolution within 30 days following the date of the clerk's final  
18 certificate, or submit it to the electors at the next ~~spring or general~~ election  
19 authorized under s. 8.065, if the election is more than 6 weeks after the date of the  
20 council's or board's action on the petition or the expiration of the 30-day period,  
21 whichever first occurs. If there are 6 weeks or less before the election, the ordinance  
22 or resolution shall be voted on at the next election authorized under s. 8.065 (2) or  
23 an election authorized under s. 8.065 (3) thereafter. ~~The council or board by a~~  
24 ~~three-fourths vote of the members-elect may order a special election for the purpose~~  
25 ~~of voting on the ordinance or resolution at any time prior to the next election, but not~~

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105**

1 ~~more than one special election for direct legislation may be ordered in any 6-month~~  
2 ~~period.~~

3 **SECTION 6.** 15.615 of the statutes is created to read:

4 **15.615 Same; attached boards. (2) REFERENDUM APPEAL BOARD.** There is  
5 created a referendum appeal board which is attached to the elections board under  
6 s. 15.03. The board shall consist of 4 members appointed by the elections board,  
7 including one individual designated by each of the following: the senate majority  
8 leader, the senate minority leader, the speaker of the assembly and the assembly  
9 minority leader. In case of an absence or temporary vacancy, the officer designating  
10 that member may serve as a member of the board. Members of the board shall serve  
11 for indefinite terms.

12 **SECTION 7.** 24.66 (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 **24.66 (3) (b)** *For long-term loans by unified school districts.* Every application  
14 for a loan, the required repayment of which exceeds 10 years, shall be approved and  
15 authorized for a unified school district by a majority vote of the members of the school  
16 board at a regular or special meeting of the school board. Every vote so required shall  
17 be by ayes and noes duly recorded. In addition, the application shall be approved for  
18 a unified school district by a majority vote of the electors of the school district at a  
19 ~~special election~~ referendum as provided under sub. (4).

20 **SECTION 8.** 24.66 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 **24.66 (4) POPULAR VOTE, WHEN REQUIRED.** If any municipality is not empowered  
22 by law to incur indebtedness for a particular purpose without first submitting the  
23 question to its electors, the application for a state trust fund loan for that purpose  
24 must be approved and authorized by a majority vote of the electors at a ~~special~~  
25 ~~election~~ referendum called, in accordance with s. 8.065, and noticed and held in the

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105****SECTION 8**

1 manner provided for other ~~special elections~~ referenda. The notice of the election  
2 referendum shall state the amount of the proposed loan and the purpose for which  
3 it will be used.

4 **SECTION 9.** 32.72 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 32.72 (1) Sections 32.50 to 32.71 do not take effect in any city until the following  
6 question is submitted to the electors of the city at a ~~special election~~ referendum called  
7 in accordance with s. 8.065 and adopted by a majority vote of the electors voting:  
8 “Shall subchapter II of chapter 32, Wisconsin Statutes, be effective in the city of  
9 ....., thus allowing the city to acquire and condemn property for street  
10 widening and similar purposes, financed through assessments of benefits and  
11 damages?”.

12 **SECTION 10.** 59.08 (7) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 59.08 (7) (b) The question of the consolidation of the counties shall be submitted  
14 to the voters at the next election authorized under s. 8.065 (2) or an election  
15 authorized under s. 8.065 (3) to be held on the first Tuesday in April, or the next  
16 regular election, ~~or at a special election to be held on a date specified in the order~~  
17 which shall be no sooner than 45 days after the day fixed in date of the order issued  
18 under par. (a), which day date shall be the same in each of the counties proposing to  
19 consolidate. A copy of the order shall be filed with the county clerk of each of the  
20 counties. ~~If the question of consolidation is submitted at a special election, it shall~~  
21 ~~be held not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days from the completion of the~~  
22 ~~consolidation agreement, but not within 60 days of any spring or general election.~~

23 **SECTION 11.** 60.62 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 60.62 (2) If the county in which the town is located has enacted a zoning  
25 ordinance under s. 59.69, the exercise of the authority under sub. (1) is subject to

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105**

1 approval by the town meeting or by a referendum vote of the electors of the town to  
2 be held at the time of any regular or special election in accordance with s. 8.065.

3 **SECTION 12.** 60.74 (5) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 60.74 (5) (b) A petition conforming to the requirements of s. 8.40 signed by  
5 qualified electors of the district equal to at least 20% of the vote cast for governor in  
6 the district at the last gubernatorial election, requesting a change to appointment  
7 of commissioners, may be submitted to the town board, subject to sub. (5m) (a). Upon  
8 receipt of the petition, the town board shall submit the question to a referendum at  
9 the next ~~regular spring election or general election, or shall call a special election for~~  
10 that purpose authorized under s. 8.065 (2) or an election authorized under s. 8.065  
11 (3) to be held not sooner than 45 days after receipt of the petition. The inspectors  
12 shall count the votes and submit a statement of the results to the commission. The  
13 commission shall canvass the results of the election and certify the results to the  
14 town board which has authority to appoint commissioners.

15 **SECTION 13.** 61.187 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 61.187 (1) PROCEDURE. Whenever a petition conforming to the requirements  
17 of s. 8.40, signed by at least one-third as many electors of any village as voted for  
18 village officers at the next preceding election therefor, shall be presented to the  
19 village board praying for dissolution of the village corporation, such board shall  
20 submit to the electors of such village, for determination by ballot in substantially the  
21 manner provided by ss. 5.64 (2) and 10.02, ~~at a general election or at a special election~~  
22 called by them for that purpose the next election authorized under s. 8.065 (2) or an  
23 election authorized under s. 8.065 (3) to be held not sooner than 45 days after  
24 presentation of the petition, the question whether or not such village corporation  
25 shall be dissolved.

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105****SECTION 14**

1           **SECTION 14.** 61.46 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           **61.46 (1) GENERAL; LIMITATION.** The village board shall, on or before December  
3 15 in each year, by resolution to be entered of record, determine the amount of  
4 corporation taxes to be levied and assessed on the taxable property in such village  
5 for the current year. Before levying any tax for any specified purpose, exceeding one  
6 percent of the assessed valuation aforesaid, the village board shall, and in all other  
7 cases may in its discretion, submit the question of levying the same to the village  
8 electors at ~~any general or special~~ the next election authorized under s. 8.065 (2) or  
9 an election authorized under s. 8.065 (3) to be held no sooner than 45 days after  
10 submission by giving 10 days' notice thereof prior to such election by publication in  
11 a newspaper published in the village, if any, and if there is none, then by posting  
12 notices in 3 public places in said village, setting forth in such notices the object and  
13 purposes for which such taxes are to be raised and the amount of the proposed tax.

14           **SECTION 15.** 62.09 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

15           **62.09 (1) (a)** The officers shall be a mayor, treasurer, clerk, comptroller,  
16 attorney, engineer, one or more assessors unless the city is assessed by a county  
17 assessor under s. 70.99, one or more constables as determined by the common  
18 council, a local health officer, as defined in s. 250.01 (5), or local board of health, as  
19 defined in s. 250.01 (3), street commissioner, board of police and fire commissioners  
20 except in cities where not applicable, chief of police, chief of the fire department,  
21 board of public works, 2 alderpersons from each aldermanic district, and such other  
22 officers or boards as are created by law or by the council. If one alderperson from each  
23 aldermanic district is provided under s. 66.018 (1), the council may, by ordinance  
24 adopted by a two-thirds vote of all its members and approved by the electors at a



**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105**

1 ~~general or special~~ any election authorized under s. 8.065, provide that there shall be  
2 2 alderpersons from each aldermanic district.

3 **SECTION 16.** 64.03 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 64.03 (1) Every ordinance or resolution for the adoption of ss. 64.01 to 64.15,  
5 and every petition for a ~~special election~~ referendum on the same, shall state the  
6 number of members of which the council herein provided for shall be composed, the  
7 term of office of its members, which term shall not exceed 2 years, whether they shall  
8 be nominated and elected from aldermanic districts or from the city at large, and the  
9 compensation, if any, which they shall receive.

10 **SECTION 17.** 64.39 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 64.39 (3) Upon filing such petition, the mayor shall, by proclamation, submit  
12 the questions prescribed in sub. (1) at a ~~special~~ the next election authorized under  
13 s. 8.065 (2) or an election authorized under s. 8.065 (3) to be held at a ~~time specified~~  
14 ~~therein and within 2 months~~ not sooner than 45 days after such petition is filed. The  
15 election upon such question shall be conducted, the vote canvassed, and the result  
16 declared in the same manner as provided by law for other city elections.

17 **SECTION 18.** 66.01 (8) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 66.01 (8) Every charter, charter amendment or charter ordinance enacted or  
19 approved by a vote of the electors shall control and prevail over any prior or  
20 subsequent act of the legislative body of the city or village. Whenever the electors  
21 of any city or village by a majority vote have adopted or determined to continue to  
22 operate under either ch. 62 or 64, or have determined the method of selection of  
23 members of the governing board, the question shall not again be submitted to the  
24 electors, nor action taken thereon within a period of 2 years. Any election to change  
25 or amend the charter of any city or village, other than a ~~special~~ an election as

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105****SECTION 18**

1 ~~provided in~~ called under s. 9.20 (4), shall be held at the time provided by statute for  
2 holding the spring election.

3 **SECTION 19.** 66.059 (2m) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 66.059 **(2m)** (b) If a referendum is to be held on a resolution, the municipal  
5 governing body shall direct the municipal clerk to ~~call a special election for the~~  
6 ~~purpose of submitting~~ submit the resolution to the electors for approval of the  
7 electors at a referendum on approval or rejection. ~~In lieu of a special election, the~~  
8 ~~municipal governing body may specify that the election be held at the next~~  
9 ~~succeeding spring primary or election or September primary or general election~~  
10 called in accordance with s. 8.065.

11 **SECTION 20.** 66.061 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 66.061 **(1)** (c) No such ordinance shall be operative until 60 days after passage  
13 and publication unless sooner approved by a referendum. Within that time electors  
14 equal in number to 20 per cent of those voting at the last regular municipal election,  
15 may demand a referendum. The demand shall be in writing and filed with the clerk.  
16 Each signer shall state his or her occupation and residence and signatures shall be  
17 verified by the affidavit of an elector. The referendum shall be held at the next  
18 ~~regular municipal election, or at a special election within 90 days of the~~ authorized  
19 under s. 8.065 (2) or an election authorized under s. 8.065 (3) to be held not sooner  
20 than 45 days after filing of the demand, and the ordinance shall not be effective  
21 unless approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon. This paragraph shall not  
22 apply to extensions by a utility previously franchised by the village or city.

23 **SECTION 21.** 66.075 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 66.075 **(5)** The provisions of this section shall apply only to such counties, cities,  
25 villages and towns as shall have adopted the same at any general or municipal

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105**

1 election at which the question of the establishment of such county or municipal  
2 slaughterhouse shall have been submitted to the voters of such county, city, village  
3 or town. Such question shall, upon the filing of a petition conforming to the  
4 requirements of s. 8.40 by electors of such county, city, village or town equal in  
5 number to at least 10% of all the votes cast in such county, city, village or town for  
6 governor at the last preceding general election, be submitted to the electors of such  
7 county, city, village or town at the next ensuing election authorized under s. 8.065 (2)  
8 or an election authorized under s. 8.065 (3) to be held not sooner than 45 days after  
9 filing of the petition, and if a majority of votes cast shall be in favor of the  
10 establishment of such slaughterhouse, the provisions of this section shall apply to  
11 such county, city, village or town.

12 **SECTION 22.** 66.504 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 66.504 (2) FACILITIES AUTHORIZED. A municipality may enter into a joint  
14 contract with a nonprofit corporation organized for civic purposes and located in the  
15 municipality to construct or otherwise acquire, equip, furnish, operate and maintain  
16 a facility to be used for municipal and civic activities if a majority of the voters voting  
17 in a referendum at ~~a special election or at a spring primary or election or September~~  
18 ~~primary or general~~ an election authorized under s. 8.065 approve the question of  
19 entering into the joint contract.

20 **SECTION 23.** 66.521 (10) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 66.521 (10) (d) The governing body may issue bonds under this section without  
22 submitting the proposition to the electors of the municipality for approval unless  
23 within 30 days from the date of publication of notice of adoption of the initial  
24 resolution for such bonds, a petition conforming to the requirements of s. 8.40, and  
25 signed by a number of electors of the municipality equal to not less than 5% of the

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105****SECTION 23**

1 registered electors ~~of the municipality~~, or, if there is no registration of electors in the  
2 municipality, by 10% of the number of electors of the municipality voting for the office  
3 of governor at the last general election as determined under s. 115.01 (13), is filed  
4 with the clerk of the municipality requesting a referendum upon the question of the  
5 issuance of the bonds. If such a petition is filed, the bonds shall not be issued until  
6 approved by a majority of the electors of the municipality voting thereon at a ~~general~~  
7 ~~or special election~~ referendum called in accordance with s. 8.065.

8 **SECTION 24.** 66.77 (3) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

9 66.77 **(3)** (a) 1. If the governing body of a county wishes to exceed the operating  
10 levy rate limit otherwise applicable to the county under this section, it shall adopt  
11 a resolution to that effect. The resolution shall specify either the operating levy rate  
12 or the operating levy that the governing body wishes to impose for either a specified  
13 number of years or an indefinite period. The governing body shall ~~call a special~~  
14 ~~referendum for the purpose of submitting the resolution to the electors of the county~~  
15 ~~for approval or rejection.~~ In lieu of a special referendum, the governing body may  
16 ~~specify that~~ provide for the referendum to be held at the next ~~succeeding spring~~  
17 ~~primary or election or September primary or general election to be held~~ authorized  
18 under s. 8.065 (2) or an election authorized under s. 8.065 (3) that occurs not earlier  
19 than 30 days after the adoption of the resolution of the governing body.

20 **SECTION 25.** 66.94 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 66.94 **(4)** MANNER OF ADOPTION. This section may be adopted by any city, village  
22 or town within the metropolitan district in the following manner: The governing body  
23 of any municipality, by ordinance passed at least 30 days prior to submission of the  
24 question, may direct that the question of the adoption of this section be submitted  
25 to the electors therein at any ~~general, special, judicial or local~~ election authorized



**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105****SECTION 26**

1 other than those specified in this subsection need be submitted to county electors,  
2 except as provided otherwise in sub. (7).

3 **(5) REFERENDUM IN TOWNS, VILLAGES AND CITIES.** (a) Whenever an initial  
4 resolution has been so adopted by the governing body of a town, the clerk of the  
5 municipality shall immediately record the resolution and call a ~~special election~~  
6 referendum in accordance with s. 8.065 for the purpose of submitting the resolution  
7 to the electors of the municipality for approval. This paragraph does not apply to  
8 bonds issued to finance low-interest mortgage loans under s. 66.38, unless a number  
9 of electors equal to at least 15% of the votes cast for governor at the last general  
10 election in their town sign and file a petition conforming to the requirements of s. 8.40  
11 with the town clerk requesting submission of the resolution. Whenever a number of  
12 electors cannot be determined on the basis of reported statistics, the number shall  
13 be determined in accordance with s. 60.74 (6). If a petition is filed, the question  
14 submitted shall be whether the resolution shall or shall not be approved. This  
15 paragraph is limited in its scope by sub. (7).

16 (b) No city or village may issue any bonds for any purposes other than for water  
17 systems, lighting works, gas works, bridges, street lighting, street improvements,  
18 street improvement funding, hospitals, airports, harbor improvements, river  
19 improvements, breakwaters and protection piers, sewerage, garbage disposal,  
20 rubbish or refuse disposal, any combination of sewage, garbage or refuse or rubbish  
21 disposal, parks and public grounds, swimming pools and band shells thereon,  
22 veterans housing projects, paying the municipality's portion of the cost of abolishing  
23 grade crossings, for the construction of police facilities and combined fire and police  
24 safety buildings, for the purchase of sites for engine houses, for fire engines and other  
25 equipment of the fire department, for construction of engine houses, and for pumps,

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105**

1 water mains, reservoirs and all other reasonable facilities for fire protection  
2 apparatus or equipment for fire protection, for parking lots or other parking  
3 facilities, for school purposes, for libraries, for buildings for the housing of machinery  
4 and equipment, for acquiring and developing sites for industry and commerce as will  
5 expand the municipal tax base, for financing the cost of low-interest mortgage loans  
6 under s. 66.38, for providing financial assistance to blight elimination, slum  
7 clearance, community development, redevelopment and urban renewal programs  
8 and projects under ss. 66.405 to 66.425, 66.43, 66.431, 66.4325, 66.435 and 66.46 or  
9 for university of Wisconsin system college campuses, as defined in s. 36.05 (6m), until  
10 the proposition for their issue for the special purpose thereof has been submitted to  
11 the electors of the city or village and adopted by a majority vote. Except as provided  
12 under sub. (15), if the common council of any city or the village board of any village  
13 declares its purpose to raise money by issuing bonds for any purpose other than those  
14 above specified, it shall direct by resolution, which shall be recorded at length in the  
15 record of its proceedings, the clerk to call a special election referendum in accordance  
16 with s. 8.065 for the purpose of submitting the question of bonding to the city or  
17 village electors. If a number of electors of a city or village equal to at least 15% of the  
18 votes cast for governor at the last general election in their city or village sign and file  
19 a petition conforming to the requirements of s. 8.40 with the city or village clerk  
20 requesting submission of the resolution, the city or village may not issue bonds for  
21 financing the cost of low-interest mortgage loans under s. 66.38 ~~without calling a~~  
22 ~~special election to submit the question of bonding to~~ unless the issuance is approved  
23 by the city or village electors for their approval at a referendum called in accordance  
24 with s. 8.065.

25 **SECTION 27.** 67.05 (6a) (a) 2. a. of the statutes is amended to read:

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105****SECTION 27**

1           67.05 **(6a)** (a) 2. a. Direct the school district clerk to call a ~~special election~~  
2 referendum in accordance with s. 8.065 (2) or an election authorized under s. 8.065  
3 (3) for the purpose of submitting the resolution to the electors for approval or  
4 rejection, ~~or direct that the resolution be submitted at the next regularly scheduled~~  
5 primary or election permitted under s. 8.065 (2) or an election authorized under s.  
6 8.065 (3) to be held not earlier than 45 days after the adoption of the resolution. The  
7 resolution shall not be effective unless adopted by a majority of the school district  
8 electors voting at the referendum.

9           **SECTION 28.** 67.05 (6m) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

10           67.05 **(6m)** (b) If a referendum is to be held on an initial resolution, the district  
11 board shall direct the technical college district secretary to call a ~~special election~~  
12 referendum in accordance with s. 8.065 for the purpose of submitting the initial  
13 resolution to the electors for a ~~referendum on approval or rejection. In lieu of a~~  
14 ~~special election, the district board may specify that the election be held at the next~~  
15 ~~succeeding spring primary or election or September primary or general election.~~

16           **SECTION 29.** 67.10 (5) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

17           67.10 **(5)** (b) Any city having ~~voted~~ approved the issuance of bonds at a special  
18 referendum election held in accordance with s. 8.065 and having sold a portion  
19 thereof may negotiate, sell or otherwise dispose of the same in the manner provided  
20 by statute within 9 years of the date of the election voting the same.

21           **SECTION 30.** 67.12 (12) (e) 5. of the statutes is amended to read:

22           67.12 **(12)** (e) 5. Within 10 days of the adoption by a technical college district  
23 board of a resolution under subd. 1. to issue a promissory note for a purpose under  
24 s. 38.16 (2), the secretary of the district board shall publish a notice of such adoption  
25 as a class 1 notice, under ch. 985. The notice need not set forth the full contents of



**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105**

1 the resolution, but shall state the amount proposed to be borrowed, the method of  
2 borrowing, the purpose thereof, that the resolution was adopted under this  
3 subsection and the place where and the hours during which the resolution is  
4 available for public inspection. If the amount proposed to be borrowed is for building  
5 remodeling or improvement and does not exceed \$500,000 or is for movable  
6 equipment, the district board need not submit the resolution to the electors for  
7 approval unless, within 30 days after the publication or posting, a petition  
8 conforming to the requirements of s. 8.40 is filed with the secretary of the district  
9 board requesting a referendum ~~at a special election~~ to be called for that purpose.  
10 Such petition shall be signed by electors from each county lying wholly or partially  
11 within the district. The number of electors from each county shall equal at least 1.5%  
12 of the population of the county as determined under s. 16.96 (2) (c). If a county lies  
13 in more than one district, the technical college system board shall apportion the  
14 county's population as determined under s. 16.96 (2) (c) to the districts involved and  
15 the petition shall be signed by electors equal to the appropriate percentage of the  
16 apportioned population. ~~In lieu of a special election, the district board may specify~~  
17 ~~that the referendum shall be held at the next succeeding spring primary or election~~  
18 ~~or September primary or general election.~~ Any resolution to borrow amounts of  
19 money in excess of \$500,000 for building remodeling or improvement shall be  
20 submitted to the electors of the district for approval. Any referendum under this  
21 subdivision shall be called at the next election authorized under s. 8.065 (2) or an  
22 election authorized under s. 8.065 (3) occurring not sooner than 45 days after filing  
23 of a petition or adoption of a resolution requiring the referendum. If a referendum  
24 is held or required under this subdivision, no promissory note may be issued until  
25 the issuance is approved by a majority of the district electors voting at such

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105****SECTION 30**

1 referendum. The referendum shall be noticed, called and conducted under s. 67.05  
2 (6a) insofar as applicable, except that the notice of ~~special election~~ referendum and  
3 ballot need not embody a copy of the resolution and the question which shall appear  
4 on the ballot shall be “Shall .... (name of district) be authorized to borrow the sum of  
5 \$.... for (state purpose) by issuing its general obligation promissory note (or notes)  
6 under section 67.12 (12) of the Wisconsin Statutes?”.

7 **SECTION 31.** 81.01 (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 81.01 (3) (b) The town board by resolution submits to the electors of the town  
9 as a referendum at a ~~general or special town~~ an election authorized under s. 8.065  
10 the question of exceeding the \$10,000 limit set under this subsection. The board shall  
11 abide by the majority vote of the electors of the town on the question. The question  
12 shall read as follows:

13 Shall the town of ... spend \$... over the annual limit of \$10,000 for the  
14 construction and repair of its highways and bridges?

15 FOR SPENDING  AGAINST SPENDING

16 **SECTION 32.** 86.21 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 86.21 (2) (a) Before any such toll bridge is constructed or acquired under this  
18 section, a resolution authorizing the construction or acquisition thereof, and  
19 specifying the method of payment therefor, shall be adopted by a majority of the  
20 members of the governing body of such county, town, village or city at a regular  
21 meeting, after publication of said resolution, as a class 2 notice, under ch. 985. The  
22 resolution shall include a general description of the property it is proposed to acquire  
23 or construct. Any county, town, village or city constructing or acquiring a toll bridge  
24 under this section may provide for the payment of the same or any part thereof from  
25 the general fund, from taxation, or from the proceeds of either municipal bonds,

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105**

1 revenue bonds or as otherwise provided by law. Such resolution shall not be effective  
2 until 15 days after its passage and publication. If within said 15 days a petition  
3 conforming to the requirements of s. 8.40 is filed with the clerk of such municipality  
4 signed by at least 20% of the electors thereof requesting that the question of  
5 acquiring such toll bridge be submitted to the said electors, such question shall be  
6 submitted at ~~any general or regular municipal~~ the next election authorized under s.  
7 8.065 (2) or an election authorized under s. 8.065 (3) that ~~may be~~ is held not less  
8 sooner than ~~10 nor more than 40~~ 45 days from the date of filing such petition. ~~In case~~  
9 ~~no such general or regular municipal election is to be held within such stated period,~~  
10 ~~then the governing body of such municipality shall order a special election to be held~~  
11 ~~within 30 days from the filing of such petition upon the question of whether such toll~~  
12 ~~bridge shall be acquired by said municipality.~~ The question submitted to the electors  
13 shall specify the method of payment for such toll bridge as provided in the resolution  
14 for the acquisition thereof. If no such petition is filed, or if the majority of votes cast  
15 at such referendum election are in favor of the acquisition of such toll bridge, then  
16 the resolution of the governing body for the acquisition of such toll bridge shall be in  
17 effect.

18 **SECTION 33.** 117.20 of the statutes is amended to read:

19 **117.20 Referendum procedures. (1)** If a referendum is required under ss.  
20 117.08 to 117.11, it shall be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November  
21 occurring not sooner than 45 days following receipt of the petition or adoption of the  
22 resolution under s. 117.08 (3) (a), 117.09 (3) (a), 117.10 (3) (a) or 117.11 (4) (a). If a  
23 referendum is required under s. 117.105, it shall be held on the Tuesday after the first  
24 Monday in the 2nd November occurring not sooner than 45 days following receipt of  
25 the petition or adoption of the resolution under s. 117.105 (1).

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105****SECTION 33**

1           **(2)** The clerk of each affected school district shall publish notice, as required  
2 under s. ~~8.55~~ 10.06 (4), in the territory of that school district. The procedures for  
3 school board elections under s. 120.06 (5), (9), (11), (13) and (14) apply to a  
4 referendum held under this section. The school board and school district clerk of each  
5 affected school district shall each perform, for that school district, the functions  
6 assigned to the school board and the school district clerk, respectively, under those  
7 subsections. The form of the ballot shall correspond to the form prescribed by the  
8 elections board under ss. 5.64 (2) and 7.08 (1) (a). The clerk of each affected school  
9 district shall file with the secretary of the board a certified statement prepared by  
10 the school district board of canvassers of the results of the referendum in that school  
11 district.

12           **SECTION 34.** 119.48 (4) (b) and (c) of the statutes are amended to read:

13           119.48 **(4)** (b) The communication shall state the purposes for which the funds  
14 from the increase in the levy rate will be used and shall request the common council  
15 to submit to the voters of the city the question of exceeding the levy rate specified in  
16 s. 65.07 (1) (f) at the ~~September election or a special~~ an election authorized under s.  
17 8.065.

18           (c) Upon receipt of the communication, the common council shall cause the  
19 question of exceeding the levy rate specified under s. 65.07 (1) (f) to be submitted to  
20 the voters of the city at the ~~September election or at a special~~ next election authorized  
21 under s. 8.065 (2) or an election authorized under s. 8.065 (3) to be held not sooner  
22 than 45 days after receipt of the communication. The question of exceeding the levy  
23 rate specified under s. 65.07 (1) (f) shall be submitted upon a separate ballot or in  
24 some other manner so that the vote upon exceeding the levy rate specified in s. 65.07  
25 (1) (f) is taken separately from any other question submitted to the voters. If a

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105**

1 majority of the electors voting on the question favors exceeding the levy rate specified  
2 under s. 65.07 (1) (f), the common council shall approve the increase in the levy rate  
3 and shall levy and collect a tax equal to the amount of money approved by the  
4 electors.

5 **SECTION 35.** 119.49 (1) (b) and (2) of the statutes are amended to read:

6 119.49 (1) (b) The communication shall state the amount of funds needed under  
7 par. (a) and the purposes for which the funds will be used and shall request the  
8 common council to submit to the voters of the city at the next election authorized  
9 under s. 8.065 (2) or an election authorized under s. 8.065 (3) to be held in the city  
10 not sooner than 45 days after receipt of the communication the question of issuing  
11 school bonds in the amount and for the purposes stated in the communication.

12 (2) Upon receipt of the communication, the common council shall cause the  
13 question of issuing such school bonds in the stated amount and for the stated school  
14 purposes to be submitted to the voters of the city at the next election ~~held in the city~~  
15 authorized under s. 8.065 (2) or an election authorized under s. 8.065 (3) that occurs  
16 not sooner than 45 days after the date of receipt of the communication. The question  
17 of issuing such school bonds shall be submitted upon a separate ballot or in some  
18 other manner so that the vote upon issuing such school bonds is taken separately  
19 from any other question submitted to the voters. If a majority of the electors voting  
20 on the school bond question favors issuing such school bonds, the common council  
21 shall cause the school bonds to be issued immediately or within the period permitted  
22 by law, in the amount requested by the board and in the manner other bonds are  
23 issued.

24 **SECTION 36.** 121.91 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105****SECTION 36**

1           121.91 **(3)** (a) If a school board wishes to exceed the limit under sub. (2m)  
2 otherwise applicable to the school district in any school year, it shall promptly adopt  
3 a resolution supporting inclusion in the final school district budget of an amount  
4 equal to the proposed excess revenue. The resolution shall specify whether the  
5 proposed excess revenue is for a recurring or nonrecurring purpose, or, if the  
6 proposed excess revenue is for both recurring and nonrecurring purposes, the  
7 amount of the proposed excess revenue for each purpose. Within 10 days after  
8 adopting the resolution, the school board shall notify the department of the  
9 scheduled date of the referendum and submit a copy of the resolution to the  
10 department. The school board shall call a special referendum in accordance with s.  
11 8.065 for the purpose of submitting the resolution to the electors of the school district  
12 for approval or rejection. ~~In lieu of a special referendum, the school board may~~  
13 ~~specify that the referendum be held at the next succeeding spring primary or election~~  
14 ~~or September primary or general election, if such election is, to be held not earlier~~  
15 sooner than 35 days after the adoption of the resolution of the school board. The  
16 school district clerk shall certify the results of the referendum to the department  
17 within 10 days after the referendum is held.

18           **SECTION 37.** 197.04 (1) (b) and (2) of the statutes are amended to read:

19           197.04 **(1)** (b) If within either of the 90-day periods described in par. (a) a  
20 petition conforming to the requirements of s. 8.40 is filed with the clerk of the  
21 municipality and the petition has been signed by 5% of the electors of a 1st class city  
22 or by 10% of the electors of all other municipalities requesting that the question of  
23 discontinuing the proceeding to acquire the plant or equipment of the public utility  
24 be submitted to the electors of the municipality, the applicable question under par.  
25 (c) shall be submitted to the electors at ~~any general or regular municipal~~ the

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105**

1 succeeding election authorized under s. 8.065 (2) or an election authorized under s.  
2 8.065 (3) that may be is held not less than 30, and not more than 35, days from the  
3 date of the filing of the petition. If no general election or regular municipal election  
4 is to be held within the stated periods, the governing body of the municipality shall  
5 order the holding of a special election for the purpose of submitting the question to  
6 the electors.

7 (2) The governing body of the municipality may provide for notice of, the  
8 manner of holding s, the method of voting on, the method of making returns of, and  
9 the method of canvassing and determining the result of, the election required under  
10 sub. (1). Notice of the election to the electors shall be given by a brief notice of that  
11 fact once a week for 3 weeks in some newspaper of general circulation published in  
12 the municipality. If no newspaper of general circulation is published in the  
13 municipality, publication may be made in any newspaper of general circulation in the  
14 county seat of the county in which the municipality is located. ~~The notice of holding~~  
15 ~~any special election shall be incorporated as a part of the notice given under this~~  
16 ~~subsection.~~

17 **SECTION 38.** 197.10 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 197.10 (2) Such contract when adopted by the common council of said city and  
19 accepted by the owner or owners of such public utility shall be submitted to the public  
20 service commission for its approval and upon such approval the same shall be  
21 submitted in such manner as the common council shall determine to a vote of the  
22 electors of such city at the next ~~regular municipal election or at a special election~~  
23 ~~called for that purpose~~ authorized under s. 8.065 (2) or an election authorized under  
24 s. 8.065 (3) to be held not sooner than 45 days after approval of the commission, and  
25 such contract shall not become binding upon such city until approved by a majority

**ENGROSSED ASSEMBLY BILL 105****SECTION 38**

1 vote of the qualified electors of such city voting thereon. No bonds shall in any case  
2 be issued by said city under the contract or contracts mentioned in sub. (1), until the  
3 proposition of their issue shall have been submitted to the people of such city and  
4 adopted by a majority of the electors voting thereon.

5 **SECTION 39.** 198.19 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 198.19 (1) Any territory, constituting one or more municipalities contiguous to  
7 a district may be annexed to and become a part of such district to all intents and  
8 purposes and with like effect as though originally included therein upon such terms  
9 and conditions as the board of directors of the district shall fix by ordinance adopted  
10 by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the directors-elect, provided that before such  
11 ordinance becomes effective the same shall be accepted and ratified by the  
12 affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors entitled to vote and voting in  
13 a ~~special election~~ referendum called and held for that purpose, in accordance with  
14 s. 8.065, in each municipality proposed in such ordinance to be annexed to the  
15 district. Such ordinance shall be published and such election shall be noticed, held  
16 and conducted, as nearly as may be, in the manner provided by this chapter for the  
17 noticing, holding and conduct of elections upon the organization of a municipal power  
18 district, except that the returns of such election and the ballots therein shall be  
19 delivered to the clerk of the district. The results of said election shall be canvassed  
20 publicly by the directors of the district.

21 **SECTION 40. Initial applicability.**

22 (1) This act first applies with respect to referenda called on the effective date  
23 of this subsection.

24 **SECTION 41. Effective date.**



