

1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 649

January 11, 2000 – Introduced by Representatives LADWIG, GOETSCH, HUNDERTMARK, MUSSER, NASS, OWENS, STONE, SUDER, SYKORA and URBAN, cosponsored by Senators HUELSMAN, DARLING, FARROW, ROESSLER, SCHULTZ and WELCH. Referred to Committee on Campaigns and Elections.

1 **AN ACT** *to repeal* 6.56 (5); and *to amend* 6.33 (2) (b), 6.55 (2) (b), 6.55 (2) (c) 1.
2 and 2., 6.55 (3), 6.79 (1) and 6.79 (4) of the statutes; **relating to:** the registration
3 of electors on election day and the determination of eligible electors in certain
4 municipalities on election day.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, voter registration is required in every municipality having a population of more than 5,000. If registration is required, any individual who qualifies as an elector in a ward or election district but who is not registered to vote may register on election day to vote in that ward or election district. An individual who registers to vote on election day must complete a registration form and a certification of eligibility and must present acceptable proof of residence. Current law also permits any individual whose name does not appear on a registration list on election day but who claims to be a registered voter in that ward or election district to vote after completing a certification of eligibility and presenting acceptable proof of residence. If an individual attempting to vote under either of these procedures is not able to present acceptable proof of residence, as an alternative, current law permits another qualified elector who resides in the same municipality to corroborate the information contained in the individual's registration form or certification. In any municipality where registration is not required, a similar procedure may be followed on election day to determine whether an individual is an eligible elector.

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This bill repeals the authority for any individual to utilize corroboration on election day in order to prove that the individual is an eligible elector.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 6.33 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 6.33 (2) (b) The registration form shall be signed by the registering elector and
3 any corroborating elector under s. 6.29 (2) (a), or 6.30 (2) to (4) ~~or 6.55 (2)~~ before the
4 clerk, issuing officer or registration deputy. The form shall contain a certification by
5 the registering elector that all statements are true and correct.

6 **SECTION 2.** 6.55 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 6.55 (2) (b) Upon executing the registration form under par. (a), the person
8 shall be required by a special registration deputy or inspector to present acceptable
9 proof of residence under sub. (7). ~~If the person cannot supply such proof, the~~
10 ~~registration form shall be substantiated and signed by one other elector who resides~~
11 ~~in the same municipality as the registering elector, corroborating all the material~~
12 ~~statements therein. The corroborator shall then provide acceptable proof of~~
13 ~~residence. The signing by the elector executing the registration form and by any~~
14 ~~elector who corroborates the information in the form under par. (a) shall be in the~~
15 ~~presence of the special registration deputy or inspector. Upon compliance with this~~
16 ~~procedure, such person shall then be given the right to vote.~~

17 **SECTION 3.** 6.55 (2) (c) 1. and 2. of the statutes are amended to read:

18 6.55 (2) (c) 1. As an alternative to registration at the polling place under pars.
19 (a) and (b), the board of election commissioners, or the governing body of any
20 municipality in which registration is required may by resolution require a person
21 who qualifies as an elector and who is not registered and desires to register on the

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1 day of an election to do so at another readily accessible location in the same building
2 as the polling place serving the elector's residence or at an alternate polling place
3 assigned under s. 5.25 (5) (b), instead of at the polling place serving the elector's
4 residence. In such case, the municipal clerk shall prominently post a notice of the
5 registration location at the polling place. The municipal clerk, deputy clerk or special
6 registration deputy at the registration location shall require such person to execute
7 a registration form as prescribed under par. (a) and to provide acceptable proof of
8 residence as provided under sub. (7). ~~If the person cannot supply such proof, the~~
9 ~~registration form shall be corroborated in the manner provided in par. (b).~~ The
10 signing by the elector executing the registration form and ~~by any corroborating~~
11 ~~elector as prescribed under par. (a)~~ shall be in the presence of the municipal clerk,
12 deputy clerk or special registration deputy. Upon proper completion of registration,
13 the municipal clerk, deputy clerk or special registration deputy shall serially number
14 the registration and give one copy to the elector for presentation at the polling place
15 serving the elector's residence or an alternate polling place assigned under s. 5.25
16 (5) (b).

17 2. Upon compliance with the procedures under subd. 1., the municipal clerk or
18 deputy clerk shall issue a certificate addressed to the inspectors of the proper polling
19 place directing that the elector be permitted to cast his or her vote. ~~If the elector's~~
20 ~~registration is corroborated, the clerk shall enter the name and address of the~~
21 ~~corroborator on the face of the certificate.~~ The certificate shall be numbered serially
22 and prepared in duplicate. The municipal clerk shall preserve one copy in his or her
23 office.

24 **SECTION 4.** 6.55 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1 6.55 (3) Any qualified elector in the ward or election district where the elector
2 desires to vote whose name does not appear on the registration list where
3 registration is required but who claims to be registered to vote in the election may
4 request permission to vote at the polling place for that ward or election district.
5 When the request is made, the inspector shall require the person to give his or her
6 name and address. If the elector is not at the polling place which serves the ward or
7 election district where the elector resides, the inspector shall provide the elector with
8 directions to the correct polling place. If the elector is at the correct polling place, the
9 elector shall then execute the following written statement: "I, ..., hereby certify that
10 to the best of my knowledge, I am a qualified elector, having resided at for at least
11 10 days immediately preceding this election, and that I am not disqualified on any
12 ground from voting, and I have not voted at this election and am properly registered
13 to vote in this election." The person shall be required to provide acceptable proof of
14 residence as provided under sub. (7) and shall then be given the right to vote. If
15 acceptable proof is presented, the elector need not have the information corroborated
16 by any other elector. If acceptable proof is not presented, the statement shall be
17 certified by the elector and shall be corroborated by another elector who resides in
18 the municipality. The corroborator shall then provide acceptable proof of residence
19 as provided in sub. (7). Whenever the question cannot be satisfactorily resolved and
20 the elector cannot be permitted to vote, an inspector shall telephone the office of the
21 municipal clerk to reconcile the records at the polling place with those at the office.

22 **SECTION 5.** 6.56 (5) of the statutes is repealed.

23 **SECTION 6.** 6.79 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 **6.79 (1) MUNICIPALITIES WITHOUT REGISTRATION.** Where there is no registration,
25 before being permitted to vote, each person shall state his or her full name and

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1 address. The officials shall record each name and address on a poll list in the same
2 order as the votes are cast. If the residence of the elector does not have a number,
3 the election officials shall, in the appropriate space, write “none”. Alternatively, the
4 municipal clerk may maintain a poll list consisting of the full name and address of
5 electors compiled from previous elections. Whenever an elector appears to vote, the
6 officials shall verify the correctness of the elector’s name and address, and shall enter
7 a serial number next to the name of the elector in the order that the votes are cast,
8 beginning with the number one. If the name and address of an elector do not appear
9 on the prepared poll list, the officials shall record the name, address and serial
10 number of the elector at the bottom of the list. The officials may require any elector
11 to provide identification, including acceptable proof of residence, ~~or to have another~~
12 ~~elector corroborate his or her information in accordance with the procedure specified~~
13 ~~in s. 6.55 (2) (b) before permitting the elector to vote.~~ The officials shall maintain a
14 separate list of those persons voting under ss. 6.15 and 6.24.

15 **SECTION 7.** 6.79 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 **6.79 (4) SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION.** When any elector provides identification
17 under sub. (1) or s. 6.15, 6.29 or 6.55 (2) or (3), the election officials shall enter the
18 type of identification on the poll or registration list, or supplemental list maintained
19 under sub. (2). If the form of identification includes a number which applies only to
20 the individual holding that piece of identification, the election officials shall also
21 enter that number on the list. ~~When any elector corroborates the registration~~
22 ~~identity or residence of any person offering to vote under sub. (1) or s. 6.55 (2) (b) or~~
23 ~~(c) or (3) the name and address of the corroborator shall also be entered next to the~~
24 ~~name of the elector whose information is being corroborated on the registration or~~
25 ~~poll list, or the separate list maintained under sub. (2).~~ When any person offering

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1 to vote has been challenged and taken the oath, following the person's name on the
2 registration or poll list, the officials shall enter the word "Sworn".

3 (END)