

1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 682

February 1, 2000 – Introduced by Representatives GROTHMAN, M. LEHMAN, OTT, KESTELL, LEIBHAM, LADWIG, PETTIS, STONE, OLSEN, ALBERS, HAHN, SPILLNER, GRONEMUS, HUBER, PLOUFF, MILLER and VRAKAS, cosponsored by Senators BAUMGART, HUELSMAN, ROESSLER, SCHULTZ, DARLING and FARROW. Referred to Committee on Campaigns and Elections.

- 1 **AN ACT to amend** 7.60 (2) of the statutes; **relating to:** the composition of county
2 boards of canvassers in certain counties.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, a board of canvassers in each county canvasses elections for county, state and national offices, county and state referenda and certain other elections and referenda. The board consists of the county clerk and two other qualified electors of the county appointed by the clerk, except that in counties having a population of 500,000 or more the board of election commissioners serves as the board of canvassers. No person may serve as a member of a board of canvassers if the person is a candidate for an office to be canvassed by that board. If the county clerk's office is vacant or if the clerk cannot perform his or her duties, the county executive or, if there is no county executive, the chairperson of the county board of supervisors designates another qualified elector of the county to serve. Also, under current law, every county clerk is required to appoint one or more deputies.

Under the bill, the county clerk must designate a deputy clerk to perform his or her duties on the board of canvassers in the event that the county clerk's office is vacant, the clerk cannot perform his or her duties, or the clerk is a candidate at an election being canvassed. If the county clerk and the designated deputy clerk are both unable to perform their duties, the county executive or chairperson of the county

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board of supervisors must designate another qualified elector to serve, as currently provided.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 7.60 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 7.60 (2) COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS. The county clerk and 2 qualified electors
3 of the county appointed by the clerk constitute the county board of canvassers. The
4 members of the board of canvassers shall serve for 2-year terms commencing on
5 January 1 of each odd-numbered year, except that any member who is appointed to
6 fill a permanent vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of the original appointee.
7 One member of the board of canvassers shall belong to a political party other than
8 the clerk's. If The county clerk shall designate a deputy clerk who shall perform the
9 clerk's duties as a member of the board of canvassers in the event that the county
10 clerk's office is vacant, or if the clerk cannot perform his or her duties or the clerk is
11 a candidate at an election being canvassed. If the county clerk and designated
12 deputy clerk are both unable to perform their duties, the county executive or, if there
13 is no county executive, the chairperson of the county board of supervisors shall
14 designate another qualified elector of the county to perform the clerk's duties. If a
15 member other than the clerk cannot perform his or her duties, the clerk shall appoint
16 another member to serve. No person may serve on the county board of canvassers
17 if the person is a candidate for an office to be canvassed by that board. If lists of
18 candidates for the county board of canvassers are submitted to the county clerk by
19 political party county committees, the lists shall consist of at least 3 names and the

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1 clerk shall choose the board members from the lists. Where there is a county board
2 of election commissioners, it shall serve as the board of canvassers.

3 (END)