DRAFTER'S NOTE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

September 5, 2001

Representative Huber:

The Municipal Employment Relations Act covers municipal employers, as defined in s. 111.70 (1) (j). Because "municipal employer" is defined to include any "political subdivision of the state," I believe that the Municipal Employment Relations Act would cover any local park and recreation district created under subch. VI of ch. 229. A local park and recreation district is a local unit of government that performs local governmental functions and, therefore, must be viewed as a political subdivision of the state. Also, a local park and recreation district would be eligible to participate in the Wisconsin retirement system. The definition of "employer" in s. 40.02 (28) covers any "governmental unit." Finally, a local park and recreation district could participate in the state health insurance plan for governmental employers other than the state under s. 40.51 (7).

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