

2001 ASSEMBLY BILL 677

December 7, 2001 – Introduced by Representatives KRUSICK, BERCEAU, BOCK, CARPENTER, MEYERHOFER, OTT, PLALE, RICHARDS, SINICKI, SYKORA, TURNER, WILLIAMS and YOUNG, cosponsored by Senators BURKE and GEORGE, by request of Milwaukee Fire Department Chief Officers Association. Referred to Committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 111.70 (8) (a) and 111.77 (8) (a) of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 collective bargaining and binding arbitration coverage under the Municipal
3 Employment Relations Act for fire fighting supervisors employed by a 1st class
4 city.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, fire fighters are covered under the Municipal Employment Relations Act (MERA) and, for those fire fighters employed by a city, village, or town having a population of 2,500 or more, are entitled to binding arbitration. The binding arbitration process that applies to fire fighters provides that the arbitrator must select the final offer of either of the parties on all of the matters on which there is no mutual agreement, unless the parties agree to allow the arbitrator to determine individually the items relating to wages, hours, and conditions of employment on which there is no mutual agreement. Current law, however, does not provide coverage under MERA to fire fighting supervisors.

This bill provides that fire fighting supervisors who are employed by a 1st class city (currently, only Milwaukee) are covered under MERA and are subject to the same binding arbitration law covering fire fighters who are not supervisors.

