

DRAFTER'S NOTE
FROM THE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

LRB-2256/1dn
RJM&JTK:wlj:jf

May 4, 2001

Representative Grothman:

1. If enacted, this draft would activate certain requirements under the National Voter Registration Act (commonly referred to as the motor voter law), from which this state is currently exempt. Primarily, these requirements include simultaneous voter registration with motor vehicle driver's license applications and renewals, voter registration at any office that provides public assistance, voter registration at any office that primarily provides state-funded services to persons with disabilities, and voter registration at armed forces recruiting offices.
2. The attached draft generally creates a new registration deadline of 5 p.m. on the 28th day before an election. (The 30th day would be a Sunday, in most cases.) However, the draft permits a registered elector who has changed his or her name *or who has moved to a new residence within the same ward or election district* to update his or her registration on election day. See proposed s. 6.55 (1) and (2). Under the motor voter law, the state is required to permit a registered elector who changes his or her residence within a ward or election district to update his or her registration at the polls on election day. See 42 USC 1973gg-6 (e) (1). Let us know if this treatment is not consistent with your intent.
3. To coordinate with the close of registration, this draft generally requires an individual to reside in this state for 28 days before an election to be eligible to vote.
4. This draft repeals s. 6.15 (3) (b), stats., which currently permits unregistered electors who have resided in this state for less than ten days to vote in a presidential election at the polls on election day. Under this draft, unregistered electors who have resided in this state for less than 28 days may vote at the municipal clerk's office not sooner than 27 days nor later than 5 p.m. on the day before the presidential election. As under current law, these electors may only vote for president and vice president.
5. The draft contains an initial applicability provision to make it clear when the new registration and residency requirements first apply. Please let us know if you do not intend to include this provision.

Please let us know if you have any questions or suggested changes.

Robert J. Marchant
Legislative Attorney
Phone: (608) 261-4454
E-mail: robert.marchant@legis.state.wi.us

Jeffery T. Kuesel
Managing Attorney
Phone: (608) 266-6778