

## 2001 ASSEMBLY BILL 412

May 18, 2001 – Introduced by Representatives SCHNEIDER, HAHN, M. LEHMAN and POWERS, by request of Town of Rome. Referred to Committee on Urban and Local Affairs.

- 1 **AN ACT to amend** 60.71 (2) (b) of the statutes; **relating to:** petition requirements  
2 for the creation of a town sanitary district.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, the owners of land within a town may petition the town board to establish a town sanitary district. The petition must be signed by at least 51% of the persons owning land or the owners of at least 51% of the land within the limits of the territory proposed to be organized into a town sanitary district. The petition must contain certain information, such as a legal description of the boundaries of the proposed sanitary district, a statement of the necessity for the proposed work, and a statement that the public health, safety, convenience, or welfare will be promoted by the establishment of the proposed sanitary district and that the property to be included will be benefitted by the proposed district.

Also under current law, one or more of the petitioners is required to verify that the petition was signed personally by the persons whose signatures appear on the petition, and current law states that the petition is presumed to have been signed by the persons whose signatures appear on the petition. Under this bill, as an alternative to the requirement that one or more of the petitioners verify that the petition was signed personally by a signatory, a person who signs a petition may have his or her signature notarized.

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For further information see the *local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

1           **SECTION 1.** 60.71 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           60.71 (2) (b) One or more of the petitioners shall verify that the petition was  
3 signed personally by the persons whose signatures appear on the petition, or a  
4 person who signs a petition may have his or her signature notarized. The petition  
5 is presumed to have been signed by the persons whose signatures appear on the  
6 petition. No petition with the requisite number of valid signatures may be declared  
7 void because of alleged defects in the information required to be included in the  
8 petition. The town board at any time may permit a petition to be amended to conform  
9 to the facts.

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(END)