

2003 Senate Bill 351

Date of enactment:  
Date of publication\*:

## 2003 WISCONSIN ACT

AN ACT *to amend* 59.10 (3) (c) (title) and 62.08 (4); and *to create* 59.10 (3) (cm) and 62.08 (4m) of the statutes; **relating to:** the size of the county board of supervisors in certain counties and the common council in certain cities.

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

**SECTION 1.** 59.10 (3) (c) (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

59.10 (3) (c) (title) *Changes during decade; municipal boundary adjustments.*

**SECTION 2.** 59.10 (3) (cm) of the statutes is created to read:

59.10 (3) (cm) *Changes during decade; reduction in size.* 1. 'Number of supervisors; redistricting.' The board may decrease the number of supervisors after the enactment of a supervisory district plan under par. (b). In that case, the board shall redistrict, readjust, and change the boundaries of supervisory districts, so that the number of districts equals the number of supervisors, the districts are substantially equal in population according to the most recent countywide federal census, the districts are in as compact a form as possible, and the districts consist of contiguous whole wards in existence at the time at which the redistricting plan is adopted. In the redistricting plan, the board shall adhere to the requirements under par. (b) 2. and 3. with regard to contiguity and shall, to the extent possible, place whole contiguous municipalities or contiguous parts of the same municipality within the same district. In redistricting under this subdivision, the original numbers of the districts in their geographic outlines, to the extent possible, shall be retained. No plan

may be enacted under this subdivision during review of the sufficiency of a petition filed under subd. 2. nor after a referendum is scheduled on such a petition. However, if the electors of the county reject a change in the number of supervisory districts under subd. 2., the board may then take action under this subdivision. The county clerk shall file a certified copy of any redistricting plan enacted under this subdivision with the secretary of state.

2. 'Petition and referendum.' The electors of a county may, by petition and referendum, decrease the number of supervisors at any time after the first election is held following enactment of a decennial supervisory district plan under par. (b). A petition for a change in the number of supervisors may be filed with the county clerk. Prior to circulating a petition to decrease the number of supervisors in any county, a petitioner shall register with the county clerk, giving the petitioner's name and address and indicating the petitioner's intent to file such a petition. No signature on a petition is valid unless the signature is obtained within the 60-day period following such registration. The petition shall specify the proposed number of supervisors to be elected. Within 14 days after the last day for filing an original petition, any other petitioner may file an alternative petition with the county clerk proposing a different number of supervisors to be elected, and, if the petition is valid, both questions shall be submitted at the same referendum. An alternative petition is subject to the same registration and signature

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\* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES 2001-02 : Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication as designated" by the secretary of state [the date of publication may not be more than 10 working days after the date of enactment].

requirements as an original petition. Each petition shall be in the form specified in s. 8.40 and shall contain a number of signatures of electors of the county equal to at least 25 percent of the total votes cast in the county for the office of supervisor at the most recent spring election preceding the date of filing. The county clerk shall promptly determine the sufficiency of a petition filed under this subdivision. Upon determination that a petition is sufficient, or if one or more valid alternative petitions are filed, upon determination that the petitions are sufficient, the county clerk shall call a referendum concurrently with the next spring or general election in the county that is held not earlier than 42 days after the determination is made. The question proposed at the referendum shall be: "Shall the Board of Supervisors of .... County be decreased from .... members to .... members?". If one or more alternative valid petitions are filed within 14 days after the last day that an original petition may be filed, the question relating to the number of supervisors shall appear separately. The first question shall be "Shall the size of the county board of supervisors of .... County be decreased from its current membership of .... members?". The subsequent questions shall be "If so, shall the size of the board be decreased to .... members?". Each elector may vote in the affirmative or negative on the first question and may then vote in the affirmative on one of the remaining questions. If the first question is not approved by a majority of the electors voting on the question, the 2nd question is of no effect. If the question is approved by a majority of the electors voting on the question, or, if more than one question is submitted, if the first question is approved by a majority of the electors voting on the question, the board shall enact an ordinance prescribing revised boundaries for the supervisory districts in the county. The ordinance shall be enacted in accordance with the approved question or, if more than one question is submitted, in accordance with the choice receiving a plurality of the votes cast. The districts are subject to the same requirements that apply to districts in any plan enacted by the board under subd. 1. If the board has determined under sub. (1) (b) to adopt staggered terms for the office of supervisor, the board may change the expiration date of the term of any supervisor to an earlier date than the date provided under current ordinance if required to implement the redistricting or to maintain classes of members. The county clerk shall file a certified copy of any redistricting plan enacted under this subdivision with the secretary of state. If the number of supervisors in a county is decreased by petition under this subdivision, no further petition may be filed under this subdivision in that county until after enactment of the next decennial plan by the board under par. (b).

3. 'Election; term.' Any redistricting plan enacted under subd. 1. takes effect on November 15 following its enactment and first applies to the election of supervisors at the next spring election following the effective date

that immediately precedes the expiration of the terms of office of supervisors in the county. Any reduction in the number of supervisory districts under subd. 2. that is approved at a spring election shall be enacted in the form of a redistricting plan no later than November 15 following that election and shall first apply to the election of supervisors at the next spring election immediately preceding the expiration of the terms of office of supervisors in the county, and any reduction in the number of supervisory districts under subd. 2. that is approved at a general election shall be enacted in the form of a redistricting plan no later than the 2nd succeeding November 15 following that election and shall first apply to the election of supervisors at the next spring election following that November 15 immediately preceding the expiration of the terms of office of supervisors in the county. If a question is approved at a referendum held under subd. 2., no subsequent plan under subd. 1. may take effect before 2 years have elapsed after the first spring election at which supervisors are elected pursuant to the plan. Any redistricting plan enacted under subd. 1. or 2. shall remain in effect until the effective date of a subsequent redistricting plan enacted under subd. 1. or until the effective date of a redistricting plan subsequently enacted under par. (b). Supervisors elected from the districts created under subd. 1. or 2. shall serve for 2-year terms and shall take office on the 3rd Tuesday in April following their election.

**SECTION 3.** 62.08 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

62.08 (4) The common council of any city may, by a two-thirds vote of all its members but not more frequently than once in 2 years, increase or decrease the number of aldermanic districts or the number of members of the city council, and in that case shall redistrict, readjust and change the boundaries of aldermanic districts, so that they are as nearly equal in population according to the most recent city-wide federal census as practicable by combining contiguous whole wards. In redistricting such cities the original numbers of the aldermanic districts in their geographic outlines shall as far as possible be retained, and the aldermanic districts so created and those the boundaries of which are changed shall be in as compact form as possible. This subsection does not apply to changes in aldermanic districts authorized under sub. (4m).

**SECTION 4.** 62.08 (4m) of the statutes is created to read:

62.08 (4m) If in a city that is solely contained within one county the aldermanic districts are coterminous with the county supervisory districts of the county and the county board decreases the number of supervisors in the county after enactment of a decennial redistricting plan under s. 59.10 (3) (cm), the common council of the city may, by a majority vote of the council, no later than November 15 immediately preceding the expiration of the terms of office of members of the council, decrease the number of

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aldermanic districts and the corresponding number of members of the council in the city to maintain coterminous boundaries between the aldermanic and supervisory districts and may change the expiration date of the term

of any council member to an earlier date than the date provided under the current ordinance if required to implement the redistricting or to maintain classes of members.

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