

## 2003 ASSEMBLY BILL 141

March 6, 2003 – Introduced by Representatives KRUG, JESKEWITZ, PLOUFF, A. WILLIAMS, POCAN, COGGS, BERCEAU, TURNER and SINICKI, cosponsored by Senators WIRCH and CARPENTER. Referred to Committee on Campaigns and Elections.

1     **AN ACT** *to create* 66.0501 (5) of the statutes; **relating to:** the eligibility of  
2           employees of cities, villages, towns, and counties to be candidates for elective  
3           public office.

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### ***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

Under current law, no political subdivision (city, village, town, or county), other than a 1st class city (currently only Milwaukee) or a county with a population of 500,000 or more (currently only Milwaukee County), may prohibit a law enforcement officer who is employed by a political subdivision from being a candidate for elective public office, if he or she is otherwise qualified to be a candidate. Also under current law, no law enforcement officer may be required, as a condition of being a candidate for any elective public office, to take a leave of absence during his or her candidacy.

Under this bill, no political subdivision, including a 1st class city and a county with a population of 500,000 or more, may prohibit any other employee of a political subdivision from being a candidate for elective public office, if he or she is otherwise qualified to be a candidate. Also under the bill, no employee of a political subdivision may be required, as a condition of being a candidate for any elective public office, to take a leave of absence during his or her candidacy. The bill does not apply to individuals to whom the federal Hatch Act applies. Generally, the Hatch Act prohibits a state or local officer whose position is funded by federal funds from being a candidate for elective office unless he or she takes a leave of absence.

