

2003 ASSEMBLY BILL 121

March 5, 2003 – Introduced by Representatives FREESE, BIES, VRAKAS, HINES, STONE, OTT, KESTELL, KREIBICH and PETTIS, cosponsored by Senators S. FITZGERALD and SCHULTZ. Referred to Committee on Campaigns and Elections.

1 **AN ACT relating to:** recruitment, training, certification, and compensation of
2 election officials.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, municipalities must pay reasonable compensation to election officials, unless an election official chooses to volunteer his or her services.

Currently, effective September 1, 2004, no individual may serve as a chief inspector (chief poll worker) at a polling place unless the individual is certified by the Elections Board to hold that office on the date of the election at which the individual serves. The board establishes requirements for certification, conducts regular training, and administers examinations to individuals to determine whether they meet the requirements. The board pays the cost of conducting the training and administering the examinations. Officials and trainees are compensated by municipalities for attendance at training sessions and examinations.

Current law also requires the Elections Board to conduct regular information and training meetings at various locations in the state for county and municipal clerks and other election officials. In addition, each municipal clerk must instruct election officials in their duties. The governing body of any municipality may require all persons serving as election officials in that municipality to prove their ability to read and write English and to have a general knowledge of the election laws. A municipality may also administer examinations to determine whether these qualifications are met.

This bill directs the Elections Board to prepare recommendations with regard to the compensation paid to election officials and establishment of a program for the

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recruitment and training of election officials and the certification of officials for whom certification of officials for whom certification is not currently required by law. The board must submit the recommendations to the legislature for distribution to the appropriate standing committees of both houses by the 90th day after the bill becomes law.

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

1 **SECTION 1. Nonstatutory provisions.**

2 (1) The elections board shall prepare recommendations with regard to the
3 compensation paid to election officials and establishment of a program for the
4 recruitment and training of election officials, and the certification of officials for
5 whom certification is not currently required by law. No later than the 90th day
6 beginning after the effective date of this subsection, the elections board shall submit
7 the recommendations to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for
8 distribution to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature in the manner
9 provided under section 13.172 (3) of the statutes.

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(END)