

WISCONSIN STATE  
LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE HEARING  
RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on  
Campaigns &  
Elections  
(\_AC\_-CE\_)

File Naming Example:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- > 05hr\_AC-Ed\_RCP\_pt01a
- > 05hr\_AC-Ed\_RCP\_pt01b
- > 05hr\_AC-Ed\_RCP\_pt02

NOTICES ...

> Committee Hearings ... CH (Public Hearing Announcements)

> \*\*

> Executive Sessions ... ES

> \*\*

> Committee Reports ... CR

> \*\*

> Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

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INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE  
CLERK FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

> Appointments ... Appt

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Name:

> Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

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> Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

> 05hr\_ab0064\_AC-CE\_pt01

> Miscellaneous ... Misc

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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

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**2005 Assembly Bill 64**

**Senate Amendment 2**

*Memo published:* May 3, 2005

*Contact:* Robert J. Conlin, Senior Staff Attorney (266-2298)

Under **current law**, the polls at an election in a first, second, or third class city must generally be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. In a village, town, or fourth class city, the polls must be open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. However, the village, town, or city may extend the opening hour to not earlier than 7:00 a.m.

**2005 Assembly Bill 64** requires the polls at every election to be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in all municipalities.

**Senate Amendment 2** to 2005 Assembly Bill 64 provides that any municipality that maintained polling hours that begin later than 7:00 a.m. prior to the effective date of the bill and that incurs additional costs to adjust its polling hours to begin at 7:00 a.m. at any election held after the effective date of the bill may file a claim with the Elections Board for reimbursement of those costs. The claim must be accompanied by appropriate substantiation of all costs incurred. The Elections Board is required to audit the claim and, if it finds that the costs have been incurred by the municipality and the costs would not have been incurred but for the requirement to open polling places at 7:00 a.m., the board is required to reimburse the municipality for those costs. To be payable, claims must be submitted within 60 days following the date on which the costs are incurred. Finally, the amendment creates a sum sufficient appropriation for the Elections Board to pay claims submitted under the amendment.

### Legislative History

On May 3, 2005, Senate Amendment 2 was introduced by Senator Decker and adopted by the Senate on a voice vote. Also on that date, the bill, as amended, was concurred in by the Senate on a voice vote.

RJC:jal



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

*Terry C. Anderson, Director  
Laura D. Rose, Deputy Director*

TO: REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN FREESE  
FROM: Robert J. Conlin, <sup>RJC</sup> Senior Staff Attorney  
RE: 2005 Assembly Bill 64, Relating to Local Polling Place Hours  
DATE: February 2, 2005

This memorandum describes 2005 Assembly Bill 64, relating to local polling place hours. The bill was introduced by Representative Freese and others; and was cosponsored by Senators Reynolds and Kedzie. The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections, which has scheduled a public hearing on the bill for Thursday, February 3, 2005.

### **CURRENT LAW**

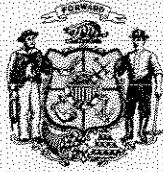
Under current law, poll hours vary depending on the type of municipality in which the polling place exists. In first, second, and third class cities, polling places must open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. In fourth class cities (cities of less than 10,000 population), villages, and towns, polls must be open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., but those hours may be extended by the governing body to not earlier than 7:00 a.m.

### **THE BILL**

2005 Assembly Bill 64 requires that polls at every election in every municipality be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

If you have any questions about this memorandum, please feel free to contact me at the Legislative Council staff offices.

RJC:ksm:tlu



**Wisconsin Speaker Pro Tempore  
Representative Stephen J. Freese**

**Testimony of Representative Steve Freese  
Assembly Bill 64  
Senate Committee on Labor and Election Reform  
April 20, 2005**

**Good morning Chairman Reynolds and Committee Members. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you on Assembly Bill 64, relating to the state's polling hours.**

**I introduced this legislation as AB 41 in 2001 and it passed the Assembly 90-9, and it again passed in our house as AB 114 in 2003 on a 59-37 vote. I'm hoping the third time is the charm.**

**Assembly Bill 64 mandates all polls at every election be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. I believe this is necessary because it would help prevent voter confusion. Currently, voters who reside in a village, town or fourth-class city where polling places open at 9:00 a.m., but who are served by media in a first, second or third-class city, may be encouraged to head to the polls before they are open.**

**This is a problem because if people make plans to vote at 7:00 and show up at that time, but the polls don't open until 9:00, they may have lost their chance to vote if they are unable to make it back before 8:00 p.m.**

**Fifty-First Assembly District**

**Capitol Office: P.O. Box 8952 • Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8952  
(608) 266-7502 • Toll-Free: (888) 534-0051 • Fax: (608) 261-9474 • Rep.Freese@legis.state.wi.us  
District: 310 E. North • Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533 • (608) 935-3789**

**Some may ask, "Isn't it the responsibility of the individual to find out where and when they vote?" Yes, it is, but if I'm watching Channel 27 news out of Madison the night before the election and the news anchor makes a blanket statement reminding viewers that the polls open at 7:00, most viewers would trust that information is for everyone, not just viewers within city limits.**

**For the past two or three elections I have watched Madison news anchors make these pronouncements the day before the election without clarification. I have spoken with constituents who say this has confused them and they missed the vote. This is wrong and I want to alleviate this confusion. I believe Assembly Bill 64 is the best way to accomplish this.**

**Thank you! I am more than happy to answer any questions at this time.**

**Reference information:**

**Rep. Dave Travis introduced this same bill as 1999 Assembly Bill 443.**

**It died in committee.**

**Griffiths, Terri**

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**From:** Henneger, Patrick on behalf of Sen.Reynolds  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2005 3:44 PM  
**To:** \*Legislative Senate Republicans; \*Legislative Senate Democrats; \*Legislative Assembly Republicans; \*Legislative Assembly Democrats; 'pcc@quarles.com'; 'wheeler@thewheelerreport.com'; Guarasci, Patrick - Office of Governor Jim Doyle; Moyer, Andrew - Office of Governor Jim Doyle; Plona, Katie - Office of Governor Jim Doyle; Zavos, Nicholas  
**Subject:** Senate Labor and Election Process Reform Committee Hearing Notice (4-20-05)

*Senate*

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Committee on Labor and Election Process Reform**

The committee will hold a public hearing on the following items at the time specified below:

Wednesday, April 20, 2005  
9:00 AM  
400 Southeast  
State Capitol

#### **Assembly Bill 61**

Relating to: residency of certain election officials.

By Representatives Kerkman, Freese, Parisi, Bies, Gielow, Gottlieb, Gunderson, Hahn, Jeskewitz, Krawczyk, Kreibich, Lehman, Lothian, McCormick, Ott, Petrowski, Pope-Roberts, Vos, Vrakas, Townsend, Mursau, Ballweg and Davis; cosponsored by Senators Wirch, Kedzie, Darling, Erpenbach, Grothman, Olsen, Lassa, Breske, Miller, Hansen and Stepp.

#### **Assembly Bill 64**

Relating to: polling hours.

By Representatives Freese, Jensen, Jeskewitz, Berceau, Nass, Hines and Lehman; cosponsored by Senators Reynolds and Kedzie.

#### **Senate Bill 171**

Relating to: the scheduling of referenda to approve school district borrowing or exceed a school district's revenue limit.

By Senators A. Lasee, Darling, Grothman, Leibham, Reynolds, Kanavas, Brown, Stepp, Kedzie and Lazich; cosponsored by Representatives Hines, Suder, Freese, Bies, Vukmir, Kerkman, Pettis, Van Roy, Ainsworth, Kreibich, Vos, Musser, Wood, Pridemore, Nass, Gunderson, F. Lasee and Vrakas.

*An executive session on AB 61, AB 64 and SB 171 will follow the hearing.*

**Vote Record**  
**Committee on Campaigns and Elections**

Date: 2/3/05  
 Moved by: Travis      Seconded by: Wood

AB 64      SB \_\_\_\_\_      Clearinghouse Rule \_\_\_\_\_  
 AJR \_\_\_\_\_      SJR \_\_\_\_\_      Appointment \_\_\_\_\_  
 AR \_\_\_\_\_      SR \_\_\_\_\_      Other \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

Be recommended for:  
 Passage       Adoption       Confirmation       Concurrence       Indefinite Postponement  
 Introduction       Rejection       Tabling       Nonconcurrency

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
<b>Representative Stephen Freese, Chair</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Mark Gundrum</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Jeffrey Wood</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Robin Vos</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative David Travis</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Frederick Kessler</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Totals:</b>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	_____	_____