

2007 SENATE BILL 201

June 4, 2007 – Introduced by Senators KANAVAS, LAZICH, LEIBHAM and DARLING, cosponsored by Representatives KERKMAN, LOTHIAN, NASS, VOS, GUNDERSON and BALLWEG. Referred to Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 5.66 (1), 7.15 (2) (b) and 7.15 (2) (c); and *to create* 5.66 (1m)
2 of the statutes; **relating to:** the number of ballots authorized to be printed at
3 an election in first class cities.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, the county clerk or board of election commissioners of each county generally is responsible for printing ballots for elections, except that each municipality must print ballots when required for local elections; a first class city (Milwaukee) may print its own ballots for any election; any municipality that uses an electronic voting system may print ballots with the permission of the county clerk or board of election commissioners of the county or counties in which the municipality is located; and no ballots are printed for distribution to electors in a municipality that uses voting machines. When printed, ballots for an election must be printed in a sufficient quantity to assure a ballot for each elector voting at the election. There is no limit on the number of ballots that may be printed.

This bill prohibits any first class city (Milwaukee) that prints ballots for distribution to electors at any election from printing ballots prior to election day in a number greater than 200 percent of the votes cast in the city at the most recent election that corresponds to the election for which ballots are to be printed, as prescribed in the bill.

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

SENATE BILL 201

1 **SECTION 1.** 5.66 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 5.66 (1) ~~For~~ Except as provided in sub. (1m), for local elections, where
3 necessary, municipal clerks shall have sufficient ballots printed or otherwise
4 prepared whenever a voting system does not utilize printed ballots to assure a ballot
5 for all electors or voting machines. For all other elections the municipal clerks shall
6 certify to their county clerk, on the first day of the 2nd month preceding the month
7 in which the primary is held, the approximate number of electors in the municipality.
8 The county clerk shall total these estimates and order a sufficient supply to assure
9 ballots for all electors and voting machines.

10 **SECTION 2.** 5.66 (1m) of the statutes is created to read:

11 5.66 (1m) No 1st class city that prints ballots for distribution to electors may
12 print ballots for any election prior to election day in a number greater than 200
13 percent of the votes cast in the city at the most recent election that corresponds to
14 the election for which ballots are to be printed. For purposes of this subsection, the
15 most recent spring election corresponds to a current spring election; the most recent
16 presidential election corresponds to a current general election at which the president
17 is to be elected; the most recent gubernatorial election corresponds to a current
18 general election at which the governor is to be elected; and the most recent regular
19 election for an office to be filled at a special election corresponds to a special election
20 called to fill the same office.

21 **SECTION 3.** 7.15 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 7.15 (2) (b) Cities over 500,000 population may prepare their own official and
23 sample ballots, subject to s. 5.66 (1m). Official ballots not utilized as absentee ballots
24 shall be printed so they are ready at least 2 days before the election.

25 **SECTION 4.** 7.15 (2) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

