

2007 SENATE BILL 533

February 25, 2008 – Introduced by Senators LASSA, SCHULTZ and VINEHOUT, cosponsored by Representatives LOTHIAN, GRONEMUS, NYGREN, SEIDEL, BIES, ALBERS, BALLWEG, KREUSER, SHERIDAN, STEINBRINK and VRUWINK. Referred to Committee on Ethics Reform and Government Operations.

1 AN ACT *to amend* 59.22 (1) (a) 1. of the statutes; **relating to:** adjusting the
2 method used to set compensation levels of certain county constitutional officers.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Generally under current law a county board is required to establish the total annual compensation level for services to be paid to elective county officials, other than supervisors and circuit judges. The compensation level must be set before the earliest filing deadline for nomination papers for any elective county office.

This compensation level may not be increased or decreased during the officer's term and remains constant unless changed by the county board. With regard to certain county constitutional officers (the sheriff, coroner, register of deeds, clerk, clerk of court, treasurer, and surveyor), who are elected to four-year terms, current law allows their compensation to be adjusted every four years.

Under this bill, for county constitutional officers, the county board must adjust the compensation level annually based on the average adjustment in the compensation given to all county department heads in the year immediately preceding the current year.

For further information see the *local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

SENATE BILL 533

SECTION 1

SECTION 1. 59.22 (1) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

59.22 **(1)** (a) 1. The Except for a sheriff, coroner, register of deeds, clerk, clerk of court, treasurer, and surveyor, the board shall, before the earliest time for filing nomination papers for any elective office to be voted on in the county, other than supervisors and circuit judges, which officer is paid in whole or part from the county treasury, establish the total annual compensation for services to be paid to the officer exclusive of reimbursements for expenses out-of-pocket provided for in sub. (3). With regard to a sheriff, coroner, register of deeds, clerk, clerk of court, treasurer, and surveyor, the total annual compensation for each such officer shall be adjusted annually by taking the compensation of the person currently holding the office and adjusting it by a percentage equal to the average adjustment in compensation given by the board to all department heads in the year immediately preceding the current year. Except as provided in subd. 2., the annual compensation may be established by resolution or ordinance, on a basis of straight salary, fees, or part salary and part fees, and if the compensation established is a salary, or part salary and part fees, it shall be in lieu of all fees, including per diem and other forms of compensation for services rendered, except those specifically reserved to the officer in the resolution or ordinance. The Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, the compensation established shall not be increased nor diminished during the officer's term and shall remain for ensuing terms unless changed by the board. Court fees shall not be used for compensation for county officers.

(END)