AN ACT to renumber 236.45 (3); and to create 236.45 (3) (b) of the statutes;

relating to: extraterritorial plat approval on basis of land’s use.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law specifies whether a county, town, city, or village has the right to approve or object to a plat (the map of a subdivision). Generally, the location of the subdivision determines which local governmental unit or units have the right to approve the plat. If a subdivision lies in the unincorporated area within three miles of the corporate limits of a first, second, or third class city, however, the governing body of the city has the right to approve the plat under its extraterritorial plat approval jurisdiction, as well as the board of the town within which the subdivision lies and the planning agency of the county within which the subdivision lies if the planning agency employs on a full-time basis a professional engineer, a planner, or another person charged with administering zoning or other planning legislation. Approval of a plat is conditioned on the plat’s compliance with the local ordinances and comprehensive, master, or development plan of the local governmental unit or units that have the right to approve the plat.

In Wood v. City of Madison, 2003 WI 24, 260 Wis. 2d 71, 659 N.W. 2d 31, the Supreme Court determined that a city with extraterritorial plat approval jurisdiction over a plat could object to the plat on the basis of the proposed use of land outside the city limits. Wood overruled Boucher Lincoln–Mercury v. Madison Plan Comm., 178 Wis. 2d 74, 503 N.W. 2d 265 (Ct. App. 1993), which held that extraterritorial plat approval or denial based on the use of the land in the plat is unilateral land use control (or zoning), and that the statutes require extraterritorial
zoning to be a cooperative effort between the city and the town in which the zoning ordinance is in effect.

This bill prohibits a municipality (city or village) from denying approval of a plat on the basis of the proposed use of land within the extraterritorial plat approval jurisdiction of the municipality unless the denial is based on a plan or regulations adopted under the statute referred to in *Boucher Lincoln-Mercury* that sets out the requirements for the cooperative effort between the municipality and the town for extraterritorial zoning.

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

**SECTION 1.** 236.45 (3) of the statutes is renumbered 236.45 (3) (a).

**SECTION 2.** 236.45 (3) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

236.45 (3) (b) Notwithstanding par. (a) and subs. (1) and (2), a municipality may not deny approval of a plat under this section or s. 236.10 or 236.13 on the basis of the proposed use of land within the extraterritorial plat approval jurisdiction of the municipality, unless the denial is based on a plan or regulations, or amendments thereto, adopted by the governing body of the municipality under s. 62.23 (7a) (c).

**SECTION 3. Initial applicability.**

(1) This act first applies to preliminary plats or, in cases in which no preliminary plats are submitted, final plats that are submitted for approval on the effective date of this subsection.

(END)