



2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 143

March 13, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives MASON, KAUFERT, HINTZ, WOOD and BERCEAU, cosponsored by Senator A. LASEE. Referred to Committee on Assembly Organization.

1 **AN ACT** *to repeal* 19.87 (3); and *to amend* 19.87 (2) of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 application of the open meetings law to legislative party caucuses.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, under the open meetings law, with certain exceptions, meetings of state and local governmental bodies must be preceded by public notice, must be held in places that are reasonably accessible to the public, and must be open to the public at all times. If a meeting is properly noticed, a governmental body may, by recorded vote of a majority of the members present, convene in closed session for the purpose of considering certain matters specified by law. The open meetings law provides that the law does not apply to any partisan caucus of the senate or assembly, except as provided by legislative rule.

This bill deletes the exception in the open meetings law that makes the law inapplicable to a partisan caucus of the senate or assembly, except as provided by legislative rule. Under the bill, no rule of the senate or assembly and no joint rule of the legislature that exempts a partisan caucus of the senate or assembly from compliance with the open meetings law is valid.

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

3 **SECTION 1.** 19.87 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

