



## 2011 SENATE BILL 267

October 28, 2011 – Introduced by Senators LEIBHAM and LAZICH, cosponsored by Representatives ENDSLEY and TAUCHEN. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Elections.

- 1     **AN ACT to amend** 5.15 (6) (b) of the statutes; **relating to:** the method of reporting  
2     election returns by municipalities.

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### ***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

Currently, the voters of each ward vote at the same polling place, which is generally separate from other polling places in a municipality. Election returns are reported by ward unless otherwise authorized by law. Currently, no later than 60 days before each September primary and general election, and no later than 30 days before each other election, the governing body of a municipality may combine two or more wards for voting purposes to permit the use of a common polling place. In municipalities with a population of 35,000 or more, a municipality must continue to report all election returns by ward even where wards are combined for voting purposes at a single location. Other municipalities may report returns for combined wards together unless a separate ballot is required in a partisan election, in which case separate returns must be reported for the offices listed on each separate ballot so that the results of the various elections may be determined.

This bill permits any municipality that combines wards for voting purposes, regardless of population, to report returns only for combined wards unless a separate ballot is required in a partisan or nonpartisan election, in which case the municipality must report separate results for the offices listed on each separate ballot.

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

**SENATE BILL 267****SECTION 1**

1           **SECTION 1.** 5.15 (6) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           5.15 **(6)** (b) No later than 60 days before each September primary and general  
3 election, and no later than 30 days before each other election the governing body of  
4 any municipality may by resolution combine 2 or more wards for voting purposes to  
5 facilitate using a common polling place. Whenever wards are so combined, the  
6 original ward numbers shall continue to be utilized for all official purposes. ~~Except~~  
7 ~~as otherwise authorized under this paragraph, every municipality having a~~  
8 ~~population of 35,000 or more~~ The municipality shall maintain separate returns for  
9 each ward so combined. ~~In municipalities having a population of less than 35,000,~~  
10 ~~the~~ unless the governing body may provide provides in the resolution that returns  
11 shall be maintained only for each group of combined wards at any election.  
12 Whenever a governing body provides ~~for common ballot boxes and ballots or voting~~  
13 ~~machines,~~ that returns shall be maintained only for each group of combined wards,  
14 the municipality shall report separate returns shall be maintained results for each  
15 separate ballot required under ss. ~~5.62 and 5.58 to 5.64~~ at the September primary  
16 ~~and general election.~~ The municipal clerk shall transmit a copy of the resolution to  
17 the county clerk of each county in which the municipality is contained. ~~In~~  
18 ~~municipalities having a population of less than 35,000,~~ The resolution shall  
19 remain in effect for each election until modified or rescinded, or until a new division  
20 is made under this section.

21           **SECTION 2. Initial applicability.**

22           (1) This act first applies with respect to reporting of election returns for  
23 elections held on or after the effective date of this subsection.

24

(END)