



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2011 Senate Bill 381

Senate Amendments 1 and 2

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Senate Bill 381

2011 Senate Bill 381 makes various changes to elections laws. Many of the provisions alter election procedure dates and timelines to reflect changes made by 2011 Wisconsin Acts 23 and 75. Specifically, the bill modifies the timeline for county and municipal canvassing procedures to accommodate late-arriving absentee ballots and verified provisional ballots. The bill also requires municipal clerks to post the number of voters who cast provisional ballots. Further, the bill alters the date on which a town must hold its annual meeting and the date on which the terms of elected town officers begin. The bill changes the date of these events from the 2nd Tuesday in April to the 3rd Tuesday in April.

Senate Amendment 1

Senate Amendment 1 makes several additional changes relating to annual town meetings and town officer terms. Senate Amendment 1 provides that the date change of the annual town meetings from the 2nd Tuesday in April to the 3rd Tuesday in April will not become effective until 2013. The amendment also provides that a town board may enact an ordinance extending town officer terms that expire on the 2nd Tuesday of April in 2012 or 2013 by one week. Enactment of such an ordinance will allow current town officer terms to expire on the 3rd Tuesday in April, which corresponds with the new date on which town officer terms begin under the bill. Lastly, Senate Amendment 1 extends the timeline for canvassing results in the first election in a newly incorporated city or village from one week to 14 days.

Senate Amendment 2

Senate Amendment 2 provides that, for purposes of reconvening the board of canvassers to count late-arriving absentee and provisional ballots, a municipal clerk may replace the members of the board of canvassers with a three-member board of canvassers consisting of the clerk, the chief inspector, and one other inspector who is appointed by the clerk. If the municipal clerk is a candidate at the election

being canvassed and is unable to serve on the board of canvassers, the other two members must appoint a qualified elector of the municipality to serve in place of the clerk. If one of the other members is unable to serve on the board of canvassers, the municipal clerk must appoint a qualified elector of the municipality to serve in place of that member.

Legislative History

Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Lazich on January 24, 2012. The Senate Committee on Transportation and Elections recommended adoption of the amendment on February 9, 2012, on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

Senate Amendment 2 was offered by Senator Lazich on February 14, 2012. The Senate adopted the amendment and passed the bill, as amended, on the same date.

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