

State of Wisconsin



2013 Assembly Bill 89

Date of enactment: **March 27, 2014**

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2013 WISCONSIN ACT 155

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

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

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

5.15 (6) (b) No later than 30 days before each election, the governing body of any municipality may by resolution combine 2 or more wards for voting purposes to facilitate using a common polling place. Whenever wards are so combined, the original ward numbers shall continue to be utilized for all official purposes. Except as otherwise authorized under this paragraph, every municipality having a population of 35,000 or more shall maintain separate returns for each ward so combined. In municipalities having a population of 35,000 or more, the governing body may provide in a resolution that returns for any ward having a population of 20 or less be combined with returns for any adjacent ward, if the total population of the combined wards does not exceed the applicable population range under sub. (2) (b) for wards in that municipality. In municipalities having a population of less than 35,000, the governing body may provide in the resolution that returns shall be maintained only for each group of combined wards at any election. Whenever a governing body provides for common ballot boxes and ballots or voting machines, that returns shall be main-

tained only for combined wards under this paragraph, the municipality shall report separate returns shall be maintained results for each separate ballot required under ss. 5.62 and 5.58 to 5.64 at the partisan primary and general election. The municipal clerk shall transmit a copy of the resolution to the county clerk of each county in which the municipality is contained. In municipalities having a population of less than 35,000, the resolution shall remain in effect for each election until modified or rescinded, or until a new division is made under this section. Whenever needed for purposes of this paragraph, the municipal clerk shall determine the population of each ward in his or her municipality. If the population of a ward cannot be determined from census results, the clerk shall determine the population of the smallest unit encompassing the entire ward that can be determined from census results. The clerk shall then divide the land area of the ward by the land area of that unit. The clerk shall then multiply that result by the population of the unit to determine the population of the ward for purposes of this paragraph.

SECTION 2. Initial applicability.

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

* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication."