



SCOTT WALKER
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 7863
MADISON, WI 53707

March 27, 2014

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I have approved Senate Bill 324 as 2013 Wisconsin Act 146 and deposited it in the Office of the Secretary of State. In addition, I exercised the partial veto in Sections 1, 2d and 2m.

Senate Bill 324 establishes when in-person absentee voting may occur. Current law allows in-person absentee voting to occur between the third Monday preceding the election and the Friday preceding the election. This bill establishes the days and hours that in-person absentee voting may occur during that period to Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M., excluding legal holidays. This bill also limits a municipality to 45 total hours of in-person absentee voting per week for statewide elections.

It is important to put in place measures that ensure the integrity of the voting process. I am partially vetoing Section 1 because I object to limiting municipalities to 45 total hours of in-person absentee voting per week for statewide elections, as this limitation is overly restrictive. I am approving the language allowing in-person absentee voting between Monday and Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. and the language prohibiting in-person absentee voting on legal holidays. Such measures will help ensure consistency of the voting process throughout the state.

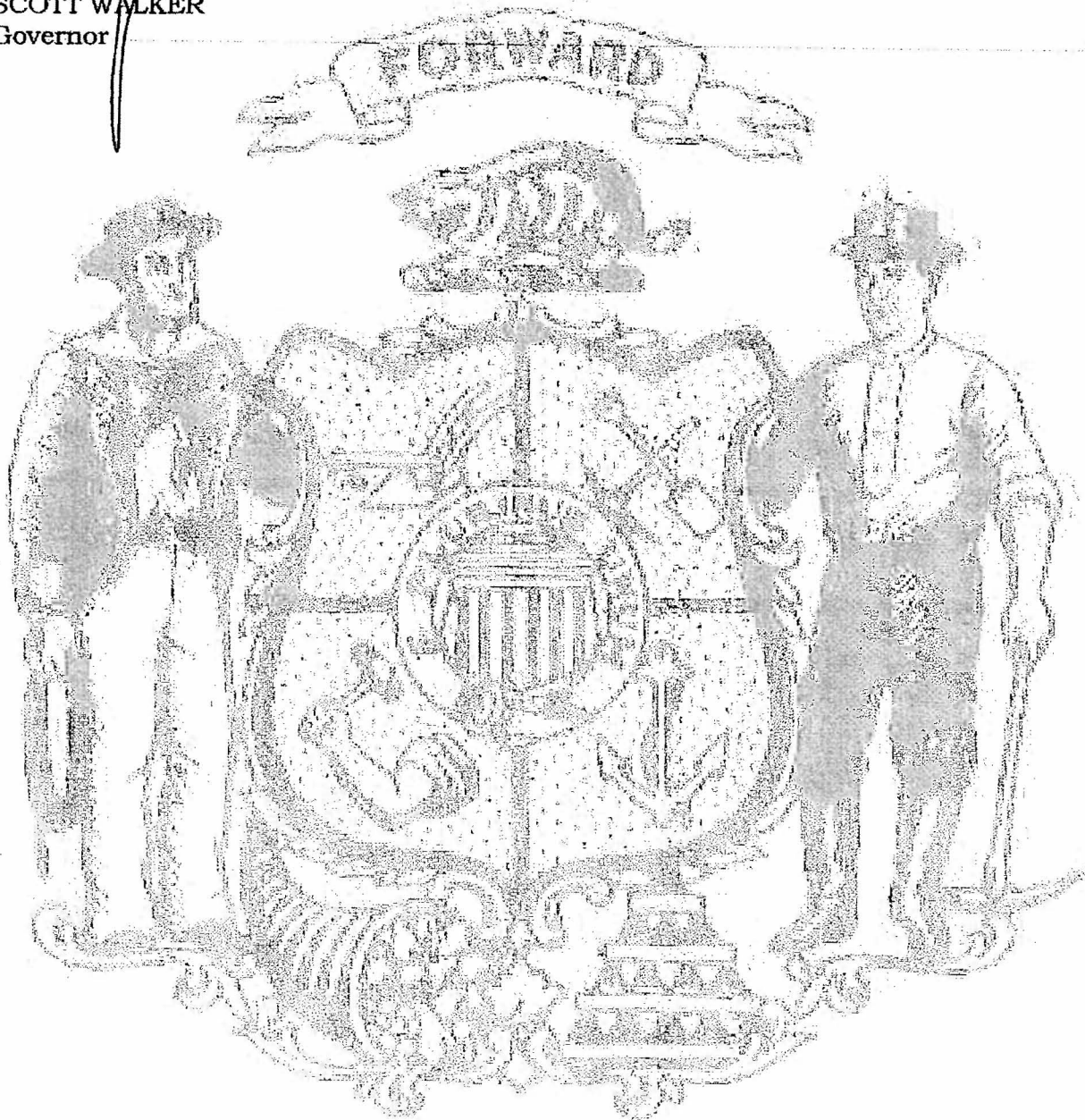
I am also vetoing Section 2d, which would allow municipalities to hire individuals to assist with in-person absentee voting, and require municipalities to provide compensation for such individuals. In addition, I am vetoing Section 2m, which creates a state appropriation for the purpose of reimbursing municipalities 50 percent of the costs incurred for hiring individuals to assist with in-person absentee voting during the 2014-15 fiscal year. I object to these provisions, as they result in a new state expenditure for a function traditionally performed by local governments.

Wisconsin needs laws that create uniform, predictable procedures in order to make voting easy and accessible to all. This bill, as partially vetoed, creates a framework for municipalities throughout the state to maintain uniform voting hours without narrowly restricting access to voting. I would further encourage a future legislature to take another step towards uniformity and align in-person absentee voting hours with the hours that polls are open on Election Day: 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. We should all

be focused on making it easier to vote, but also ensuring the integrity of the voting process by making it harder to cheat, and I fully support all efforts to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

SCOTT WALKER
Governor



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State of Wisconsin



2013 Senate Bill 324

Date of enactment:
Date of publication*:

2013 WISCONSIN ACT

AN ACT to amend 6.86 (1) (b); and to create 6.86 (1) (bb) and 20.566 (2) (c) of the statutes; relating to: limiting the times for voting by absentee ballots in person and making an appropriation.

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

SECTION 1. 6.86 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

6.86 (1) (b) Except as provided in this section, if application is made by mail, the application shall be received no later than 5 p.m. on the 5th day immediately preceding the election. If application is made in person, the application shall be made no earlier than the opening of business on the 3rd Monday preceding the election and no later than ~~5 p.m. or the close of business, whichever is later, 7 p.m.~~ on the Friday preceding the election. No application may be received on a legal holiday. An application made in person may only be received Monday to Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. each day. A municipality may make available no more than 45 hours each week for in-person absentee voting for any statewide election and shall specify the hours in the notice under s. 10.01 (2) (e). The municipal clerk or an election official shall witness the certificate for any in-person absentee ballot cast. Except as provided in par. (c), if the elector is making written application for an absentee ballot at the partisan primary, the general election, the presidential preference primary, or a special election for national office, and the application indicates that the elector is a military elector, as defined in s. 6.34 (1), the application shall be received by the municipal

clerk no later than 5 p.m. on election day. If the application indicates that the reason for requesting an absentee ballot is that the elector is a sequestered juror, the application shall be received no later than 5 p.m. on election day. If the application is received after 5 p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election, the municipal clerk or the clerk's agent shall immediately take the ballot to the court in which the elector is serving as a juror and deposit it with the judge. The judge shall recess court, as soon as convenient, and give the elector the ballot. The judge shall then witness the voting procedure as provided in s. 6.87 and shall deliver the ballot to the clerk or agent of the clerk who shall deliver it to the polling place or, in municipalities where absentee ballots are canvassed under s. 7.52, to the municipal clerk as required in s. 6.88. If application is made under sub. (2) or (2m), the application may be received no later than 5 p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election.

SECTION 2d. 6.86 (1) (bb) of the statutes is created to read:

6.86 (1) (bb) A municipality may hire individuals to assist in receiving absentee ballots in person for any statewide election during the period described under par. (b) and shall compensate the individuals as provided under s. 7.03 (1) (a), except that the state shall reimburse the municipality for 50 percent of the compensation paid to such individuals during the 2014-15 fiscal year, not to exceed compensation of 45 hours a week for each such

* 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."

individual. A municipality may receive compensation under this paragraph if it notifies the department of revenue, in the manner prescribed by the department, no later than July 1, 2015, of the amount of compensation paid to individuals to assist in receiving absentee ballots in person in the municipality for a statewide election. The department of revenue shall make payments under this paragraph from the appropriation account under s. 20.566 (2) (c).

SECTION 2m. 20.566 (2) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

20.566 (2) (c) *Absentee ballots in person.* A sum sufficient to reimburse municipalities for compensation paid to individuals to assist in receiving absentee ballots in person, as provided under s. 6.86 (1) (bb).

SECTION 3. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to elections held no earlier than 60 days after the effective date of this subsection.
