



2013 SENATE BILL 548

February 3, 2014 – Introduced by Senator LAZICH, cosponsored by Representatives THIESFELDT and BERNIER. Referred to Elections and Urban Affairs.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 6.50 (1), 6.50 (2) and 6.50 (7); and *to create* 6.50 (2g) and 6.50
2 (2r) of the statutes; **relating to:** transferring responsibility over biennial
3 updating of voter registration list to the Government Accountability Board.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law requires the municipal clerk or the board of election commissioners of each municipality (municipal clerk) to examine the voter registration records for that municipality within 90 days of each general election to identify any elector who was qualified to vote over the preceding four years but who has not voted within that four-year period (nonvoting elector). The municipal clerk must mail a “Notice of Suspension of Registration” to each nonvoting elector informing the elector that the elector’s registration will be suspended if the elector does not apply for continuation of registration within 30 days. If the nonvoting elector fails to apply for continuation of registration as directed, the municipal clerk must change the elector’s registration status from eligible to ineligible.

This bill transfers responsibility for reviewing each municipality’s voter registration records and mailing the Notice of Suspension of Registration forms from the municipal clerk to the Government Accountability Board (GAB). The bill authorizes GAB to delegate back to the municipal clerk the responsibility to change the registration status of electors who have not timely applied for continuation of registration. The bill also changes the date by which this notification must occur from within 90 days following each general election to no later than June 15 following each general election. Under the bill, the nonvoting elector must return the application for continuation of registration to the elector’s municipal clerk.

SENATE BILL 548

The bill also requires GAB to compile and post on its Internet site certain information about the notices of suspension of registration sent by and returned to GAB, including the total number of notices mailed, the number of notices returned as undeliverable, and the number of electors whose status changed from eligible to ineligible.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 6.50 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 6.50 (1) ~~Within 90 days~~ No later than June 15 following each general election,
3 the ~~municipal clerk or board of election commissioners of each municipality~~ shall
4 examine the registration records for each municipality and identify each elector who
5 has not voted within the previous 4 years if qualified to do so during that entire period
6 and shall mail a notice to the elector in substantially the following form:

7 “NOTICE OF SUSPENSION OF
8 REGISTRATION

9 You are hereby notified that your voter registration will be suspended,
10 according to state law, for failure to vote within the previous 4-year period, unless
11 you apply for continuation of your registration within 30 days. You may continue
12 your registration by signing the statement below and returning it to ~~this~~ the office
13 of the municipal clerk (mailing address and telephone number of office of
14 municipal clerk or board of election commissioners) by mail or in person.

15 APPLICATION FOR CONTINUATION
16 OF REGISTRATION

17 I hereby certify that I still reside at the address at which I am registered and
18 apply for continuation of registration.

SENATE BILL 548

1 Signed

2 Present Address

3 If you have changed your residence within this municipality or changed your
4 name, please contact ~~this~~ the office of the municipal clerk (mailing address and
5 telephone number of office of municipal clerk or board of election commissioners) to
6 complete a change of name or address form.

7 [Office of clerk or board of election commissioners

8 Address

9 Telephone]”.

10 **SECTION 2.** 6.50 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 6.50 (2) ~~The municipal clerk or~~ If an elector to whom a notice of suspension was
12 mailed under sub. (1) has not applied for continuation of registration within 30 days
13 of the date of mailing, the board of ~~election commissioners~~ shall change the
14 registration status of all notified electors under sub. (1) who have not applied for
15 continuation of registration within 30 days of the date of mailing of the notice of
16 suspension that elector from eligible to ineligible status on the day that falls 30 days
17 after the date of mailing.

18 **SECTION 3.** 6.50 (2g) of the statutes is created to read:

19 6.50 (2g) The board may delegate to a municipal clerk or board of election
20 commissioners of a municipality the responsibility to change the registration status
21 of electors when required under sub. (2).

22 **SECTION 4.** 6.50 (2r) of the statutes is created to read:

23 6.50 (2r) As soon as practicable, but no later than August 1 following the
24 completion of the process under subs. (1) and (2), the board shall publish on its
25 Internet site the following information obtained through that process:

SENATE BILL 548

1 (a) The number of notices mailed under sub. (1).

2 (b) The number of notices described under par. (a) that were returned to the
3 board as undeliverable.

4 (c) The number of notices described under par. (a) that were returned to the
5 board requesting continuation of registration.

6 (d) The number of notices described under par. (a) that were returned
7 requesting cancellation of registration.

8 (e) The number of notices described under par. (a) that were returned with an
9 indication that the named elector is deceased.

10 (f) The number of notices described under par. (a) that were not returned to the
11 board.

12 (g) The number of electors who received notices under sub. (1) and whose status
13 changed from eligible to ineligible.

14 (h) Any other information requested by the legislature or that the board
15 considers relevant.

16 **SECTION 5.** 6.50 (7) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 6.50 (7) When an elector's registration is changed from eligible to ineligible
18 status, the board, municipal clerk, or board of election commissioners shall make an
19 entry on the registration list, giving the date of and reason for the change.

20 **SECTION 6. Initial applicability.**

21 (1) This act first applies with respect to elections held at least 60 days after the
22 effective date of this subsection.

23 (END)