



2013 SENATE BILL 265

August 21, 2013 – Introduced by Senators LAZICH, LEIBHAM, VUKMIR and DARLING, cosponsored by Representatives BERNIER, SANFELIPPO and PRIDEMORE. Referred to Elections and Urban Affairs.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 7.30 (2) (a) of the statutes; **relating to:** party representation
2 for election officials serving at polling places.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, polling places are staffed principally by election inspectors. Unless a municipality decides to increase or decrease the number of inspectors, there are seven inspectors at each polling place. With certain exceptions, the individuals who are appointed as inspectors at a polling place are drawn from nominations submitted by the political parties whose candidates for president or governor received the most votes in the area served by the polling place at the preceding general election, with the party whose candidate received the most votes entitled to fill one more position than the other party.

This bill provides that whenever two or more inspectors are required to perform a function within a polling place and both parties that are entitled to submit nominees have done so, the chief inspector must assign, insofar as practicable, an equal number of inspectors from the nominees of each party.

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

3 **SECTION 1.** 7.30 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:
4 7.30 (2) (a) Only election officials appointed under this section or s. 6.875 may
5 conduct an election. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph and in ss. 7.15

SENATE BILL 265**SECTION 1**

1 (1) (k) and 7.52 (1) (b), each election official shall be a qualified elector of the ward
2 or wards, or the election district, for which the polling place is established. A special
3 registration deputy who is appointed under s. 6.55 (6) or an election official who is
4 appointed under this section to fill a vacancy under par. (b) need not be a resident
5 of the ward or wards, or the election district, but shall be a resident of the
6 municipality, except that if a municipal clerk or deputy clerk serves as a registration
7 deputy or is appointed to fill a vacancy under par. (b), the clerk or deputy clerk need
8 not be a resident of the municipality, but shall be a resident of the state. No more
9 than 2 individuals holding the office of clerk or deputy clerk may serve without
10 regard to municipal residency in any municipality at any election. Special
11 registration deputies who are appointed under s. 6.55 (6) may be appointed to serve
12 more than one polling place. All officials appointed under this section shall be able
13 to read and write the English language, be capable, and be of good understanding,
14 and may not be a candidate for any office to be voted for at an election at which they
15 serve. In 1st class cities, they may hold no public office other than notary public.
16 Except as authorized under subs. (1) (b) and (4) (c), all inspectors shall be affiliated
17 with one of the 2 recognized political parties which received the largest number of
18 votes for president, or governor in nonpresidential general election years, in the ward
19 or combination of wards served by the polling place at the last election. Excluding
20 the inspector who may be appointed under sub. (1) (b), the party which received the
21 largest number of votes is entitled to one more inspector than the party receiving the
22 next largest number of votes at each polling place. Whenever 2 or more inspectors
23 are required to perform a function within a polling place and both parties that are
24 entitled to submit nominees have done so, the chief inspector shall assign, insofar as
25 practicable, an equal number of inspectors from the nominees of each party. Election

SENATE BILL 265

1 officials appointed under this section may serve the electors of more than one ward
2 where wards are combined under s. 5.15 (6) (b). If a municipality is not divided into
3 wards, the ward requirements in this paragraph apply to the municipality at large.

4 **SECTION 2. Initial applicability.**

5 (1) This act first applies with respect to elections held after the effective date
6 of this subsection.

7 (END)