



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 287
[2013 Assembly Bill 512]

**Waukesha County Board Approval
of Town Zoning Ordinances**

Background

If a county has enacted a zoning ordinance and a town exercising village powers within that county decides to enact its own town zoning ordinances, then both of the following must occur: (1) the town board must be specifically authorized to engage in zoning under village powers by the town electors at a town meeting or by a referendum vote; and (2) the county board must approve any town zoning ordinance or amendment of an ordinance.

2013 Wisconsin Act 287

2013 Wisconsin Act 287 (hereinafter "the Act") specifies that a town located within a county that meets three criteria cannot adopt or amend a zoning ordinance without county board approval. The requirement applies if the following criteria are met:

- The town is located in a county that has a population exceeding 380,000.
- The county where the town is located is adjacent to a county that has a population exceeding 800,000.
- The county where the town is located has a zoning ordinance in effect on January 1, 2013.

The only county that currently meets these criteria is Waukesha County.

Effective date: This Act goes into effect on April 18, 2014.

Prepared by: Melissa Schmidt, Senior Staff Attorney

April 18, 2014

MS:jb;ty

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.