



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2013 Senate Bill 267**

**Assembly Amendment 2**

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2013 Senate Bill 267, as passed by the Senate, requires the clerk or other individual authorized to accept a voter registration form to record the type of document submitted as proof of residence, as well as other information related to that document.

### **Current Law**

Current law requires each elector, except a military or overseas elector, to provide proof of residence when registering to vote if the elector registers after the close of registration (the third Wednesday preceding an election) or if the elector registers by mail and has not voted in an election in this state. Thus, under current law, an elector is exempt from the requirement to provide proof of residence if the elector is: (1) a military elector; (2) an overseas elector; or (3) an elector who registers prior to the close of registration, unless the elector is a first-time voter in Wisconsin.

Under current law, the following documents, among others, may be used as proof of residence if they contain the elector's current and complete name and address: a residential lease, a paycheck, a bank statement, a real property tax bill, a document issued by a unit of government, or a utility bill issued within a certain period prior to the election.

Current law further provides that election officials must record certain information relating to proof of residence on the poll list or separate list. Election officials must record the type of identifying document submitted and, if the document includes a number which applies only to the individual holding that document (e.g., a bank account number), the officials must also record that number on the poll list or separate list.

### **Senate Bill 267, as Amended by the Senate**

Senate Bill 267 requires the clerk or other individual authorized to accept a voter registration form to record the type of document submitted as proof of residence, when proof of residence is

required. The clerk or individual must also record the name of the entity or institution that issued the document and a number that applies only to the individual holding the document, if the document includes such a number. Under the bill, voter registration forms must include a space where the clerk must record this information about proof of residence.

The bill also eliminates the current law requirement that election officials record on the poll list or separate list a number that applies only to the individual holding the document submitted as proof of residence. Under the bill, this information will only be recorded on the voter's registration form and not on the poll list or separate list.

Finally, the bill requires the Government Accountability Board to indicate on the official registration list whether an elector had to provide proof of residence and, if so, the type of document the elector submitted, the entity or institution that issued the document, and the individual's number on the document.

### **Assembly Amendment 2**

Assembly Amendment 2 provides that if the document used as proof of residence includes a number that applies only to the individual holding that document, the clerk or individual must enter the *last four digits* of the number. However, if the number on the document has six or fewer digits, the clerk or individual must enter only the last two digits of that number. The limit on digits also applies to the information recorded on the official registration list.

In addition, the amendment eliminates the exemption from the proof of residence requirement for electors who register prior to the close of registration. Thus, under the amendment, each elector, except a military or overseas elector, must provide proof of residence when registering to vote.

### **Senate Action**

#### ***Senate Amendment 2***

Senate Amendment 2 provided that the clerk or other individual authorized to accept a voter registration form must, in addition to recording the type of document submitted as proof of residence, also record the name of the entity or institution that issued the document and a number that applies only to the individual holding the document, if the document includes such a number.

The amendment also eliminated the requirement that election officials record on the poll list or separate list a number that applies only to the individual holding the document submitted as proof of residence. Under the amendment, this information will only be recorded on the voter's registration form and not on the poll list or separate list.

Finally, the amendment specified that voter registration forms must include a space where the clerk "shall" record the type of document submitted as proof of residence, the name of the entity or institution that issued the document, and a number that applies only to the individual holding the document, if the document includes such a number.

**Bill History**

The Senate adopted Senate Amendment 2 on a voice vote and passed the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 18; Noes, 15.

Assembly Amendment 2 was offered by Representatives Bernier and Born. On February 18, 2014, the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 2 and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 6; Noes, 3.

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