



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AMENDMENT MEMO**

2015 Senate Bill 71

**Senate
Amendment 1**

Memo published: April 30, 2015

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CURRENT LAW

Election inspectors (poll workers) generally register voters who choose to register at the polling place on Election Day. Under current law, these registration duties can also be performed by special registration deputies (SRDs) appointed by the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners, if the municipal governing body or board of election commissioners passes a resolution authorizing the use of SRDs.

2015 SENATE BILL 71

Senate Bill 71 eliminates the requirement for a governing body or board of election commissioners to pass a resolution before SRDs may register voters at the polls. Instead, the clerk or board of election commissioners can appoint SRDs to register voters on Election Day after determining that such action will facilitate the registration process.

Senate Bill 71 also allows the municipal clerk to register voters on Election Day, unless the clerk is a candidate on the ballot for that Election Day.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 removes a statutory ambiguity regarding whether training is required for SRDs registering voters on Election Day. Section 6.26 (2), Stats., imposes requirements and restrictions on SRDs, including a requirement that an SRD must complete training. However, the statute also includes a general exception for SRDs appointed to register voters on Election Day. The exception creates ambiguity regarding whether training is currently required for these SRDs because language elsewhere in the statutes [s. 7.315 (1) (b) 1., Stats.], requires training for all SRDs. Senate Amendment 1 repeals the exception in s. 6.26 (2), Stats.,

for SRDs who register voters on Election Day. The change makes these SRDs subject to any applicable requirements and restrictions in s. 6.26 (2), Stats., including the requirement for training, which resolves the ambiguity in current law.

BILL HISTORY

Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Gudex on April 14, 2015. The Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government adopted the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0, on April 23, 2015. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

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