



State of Wisconsin  
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4228/1  
TKK:emw

## 2015 SENATE BILL 625

January 22, 2016 - Introduced by Senators HARRIS DODD, CARPENTER, C. LARSON, RINGHAND and VINEHOUT, cosponsored by Representatives BARNES, JOHNSON, BERCEAU, BILLINGS, BROSTOFF, C. TAYLOR, CONSIDINE, GENRICH, GOYKE, KAHL, KESSLER, KOLSTE, MASON, OHNSTAD, POPE, RIEMER, SARGENT, SHANKLAND, SINICKI, SPREITZER, SUBECK and ZEPNICK. Referred to Committee on Elections and Local Government.

1     **AN ACT** *to amend* 6.855 (title), 6.855 (1), 6.855 (1), 6.855 (2), 6.86 (1) (ad), 7.15  
2           (2m), 10.01 (2) (e) and 12.03 (1); and *to create* 6.86 (1) (ad) of the statutes;  
3     **relating to:** alternate sites for absentee voting in person.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill permits the governing body of a municipality to designate more than one alternate site for absentee voting in person by electors of the municipality. Currently, the governing body of a municipality may designate only a single alternate site for absentee voting in person by electors of the municipality. If designated, this site serves in lieu of the office of the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners as the site where absentee voting is conducted for the election at which the designation is made.

Under the bill, an alternate site may be used for absentee voting in addition to or in lieu of use of the office of the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners.

The bill directs a municipality that designates an alternate site for absentee voting at an election to notify the Government Accountability Board in writing of its designation. After June 30, 2016, the municipality must provide this notice to the Elections Commission.

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

**SENATE BILL 625****SECTION 1**

1           **SECTION 1.** 6.855 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           **6.855** (title) **Alternate absentee ballot site sites.**

3           **SECTION 2.** 6.855 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

4           6.855 (1) The governing body of a municipality may elect to designate ~~a site~~  
5           one or more sites other than the office of the municipal clerk or board of election  
6           commissioners as the a location from which electors of the municipality may request  
7           and vote absentee ballots and to which voted absentee ballots shall may be returned  
8           by electors for any election. ~~The designated site shall be located as near as~~  
9           ~~practicable to the office of the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners and~~  
10          ~~no~~ No alternate site may be designated that affords an advantage to any political  
11          party. An election by a governing body to designate an alternate site under this  
12          section shall be made no fewer than 14 days prior to the time that absentee ballots  
13          are available for the primary under s. 7.15 (1) (cm), if a primary is scheduled to be  
14          held, or at least no fewer than 14 days prior to the time that absentee ballots are  
15          available for the election under s. 7.15 (1) (cm), if a primary is not scheduled to be  
16          held, and shall remain in effect until at least the day after the election. ~~If the~~  
17          ~~governing body of a municipality makes an election under this section, no function~~  
18          ~~related to voting and return of absentee ballots that is to be conducted at the~~  
19          ~~alternate site may be conducted in the office of the municipal clerk or board of~~  
20          ~~election commissioners~~ An alternate site may be used for absentee voting in addition  
21          to or in lieu of use of the office of the municipal clerk or board of election  
22          commissioners. No later than the latest time specified in this subsection for  
23          designation of an alternate site for absentee voting at an election, a municipality  
24          designating an alternate site shall provide written notice to the board of the

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1 designation of the site, the address of the site, and the election at which it will be in  
2 operation.

3 **SECTION 3.** 6.855 (1) of the statutes, as affected by 2015 Wisconsin Act .... (this  
4 act), is amended to read:

5 6.855 (1) The governing body of a municipality may elect to designate one or  
6 more sites other than the office of the municipal clerk or board of election  
7 commissioners as the location from which electors of the municipality may request  
8 and vote absentee ballots and to which voted absentee ballots may be returned by  
9 electors for any election. No alternate site may be designated that affords an  
10 advantage to any political party. An election by a governing body to designate an  
11 alternate site under this section shall be made no fewer than 14 days prior to the time  
12 that absentee ballots are available for the primary under s. 7.15 (1) (cm), if a primary  
13 is scheduled to be held, or no fewer than 14 days prior to the time that absentee  
14 ballots are available for the election under s. 7.15 (1) (cm), if a primary is not  
15 scheduled to be held, and shall remain in effect until at least the day after the  
16 election. An alternate site may be used for absentee voting in addition to or in lieu  
17 of use of the office of the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners. No later  
18 than the latest time specified in this subsection for designation of an alternate site  
19 for absentee voting at an election, a municipality designating an alternate site shall  
20 provide written notice to the ~~board~~ elections commission of the designation of the  
21 site, the address of the site, and the election at which it will be in operation.

22 **SECTION 4.** 6.855 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

23 6.855 (2) The municipal clerk or board of election commissioners shall  
24 prominently display a notice of the designation of the each alternate site selected  
25 under sub. (1) in the office of the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners

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1 beginning on the date that the site is designated under sub. (1) and continuing  
2 through the period that absentee ballots are available for the election and for any  
3 primary under s. 7.15 (1) (cm). The notice shall specify the days and hours of  
4 operation of each alternate site and the days and hours of operation of the office of  
5 the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners. If the municipal clerk or  
6 board of election commissioners maintains a Web site on the Internet, the clerk or  
7 board of election commissioners shall post a notice of the designation of the each  
8 alternate site selected under sub. (1) on the Web site during the same period that  
9 notice is displayed in the office of the clerk or board of election commissioners.

10 **SECTION 5.** 6.86 (1) (ad) of the statutes is created to read:

11 6.86 (1) (ad) The board shall prescribe the form of applications for absentee  
12 ballots by electors who vote in person at the office of the municipal clerk or an  
13 alternate site designated under s. 6.855.

14 **SECTION 6.** 6.86 (1) (ad) of the statutes, as created by 2015 Wisconsin Act ....  
15 (this act), is amended to read:

16 6.86 (1) (ad) The ~~board~~ commission shall prescribe the form of applications for  
17 absentee ballots by electors who vote in person at the office of the municipal clerk or  
18 an alternate site designated under s. 6.855.

19 **SECTION 7.** 7.15 (2m) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 7.15 (2m) OPERATION OF ALTERNATE ABSENTEE BALLOT SITE. In a municipality in  
21 which the governing body has elected to establish an one or more alternate absentee  
22 ballot ~~site~~ sites under s. 6.855, the municipal clerk shall operate such site as though  
23 it were his or her office for absentee ballot purposes and shall ensure that such site  
24 is adequately staffed.

25 **SECTION 8.** 10.01 (2) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1           10.01 (2) (e) Type E — The type E notice shall state the qualifications for  
2 absentee voting, the procedures for obtaining an absentee ballot in the case of  
3 registered and unregistered voters, the places ~~and the deadlines for application and~~  
4 ~~return of application~~ where electors may cast absentee ballots in person, including  
5 any alternate site or sites designated under s. 6.855, the deadlines for making  
6 application for and return of absentee ballots, and the office hours during which an  
7 elector may cast an absentee ballot in the municipal clerk's office or at an each  
8 alternate site under s. 6.855. The municipal clerk shall publish a type E notice on  
9 the 4th Tuesday preceding each spring primary and election, on the 4th Tuesday  
10 preceding each partisan primary and general election, on the 4th Tuesday preceding  
11 the primary for each special national, state, county or municipal election if any, on  
12 the 4th Tuesday preceding a special county or municipal referendum, and on the 3rd  
13 Tuesday preceding each special national, state, county or municipal election to fill  
14 an office which is not held concurrently with the spring or general election. The clerk  
15 of each special purpose district which calls a special election shall publish a type E  
16 notice on the 4th Tuesday preceding the primary for the special election, if any, on  
17 the 4th Tuesday preceding a special referendum, and on the 3rd Tuesday preceding  
18 a special election for an office which is not held concurrently with the spring or  
19 general election except as authorized in s. 8.55 (3).

20           **SECTION 9.** 12.03 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

21           12.03 (1) No election official may engage in electioneering on election day. No  
22 municipal clerk or employee of the clerk may engage in electioneering in the clerk's  
23 office or at ~~the~~ an alternate site under s. 6.855 during the hours that ballots may be  
24 cast at those locations.

