



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2017 Wisconsin Act 150**  
[2017 Assembly Bill 636]

**Removal of Certain County  
and City Officers**

2017 Wisconsin Act 150 (“the Act”) modifies the standard for removal of certain appointed county and city officers.

### COUNTY OFFICERS

Prior to the Act, county officers appointed by the Governor, county board, or county board chairperson could generally only be removed by the appointing authority for cause, meaning for inefficiency, neglect of duty, official misconduct, or malfeasance in office.

Act 150 generally allows the appointing authority to remove these county officers at pleasure, except for individuals who are subject to a civil service law. Removals by the county board require an affirmative two-thirds vote, and the county board may only remove personnel supported by federal funds as authorized by applicable federal law. In addition, a county may enact an ordinance to impose a for cause removal standard for any county officer who is appointed by the county board or county board chairperson.

The Act also provides that any member of the governing body of a joint county school, hospital, sanatorium, asylum, or other joint county institution who is appointed by a county board may be removed at pleasure by the appointing authority. The appointing authority may also remove any officer of one of these institutions at pleasure.

### CITY OFFICERS

Prior to the Act, city officers appointed by the common council could be removed by the common council at pleasure, and the common council could remove any other appointed city officer for cause. In addition, city officers appointed by another officer or body without confirmation or concurrence by the council could be removed by the appointing authority at

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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>.

pleasure. However, individuals subject to a civil service law could only be removed as provided therein.

Under Act 150, a city officer appointed by the common council may generally be removed by the common council at pleasure. A city officer appointed by another officer or body, regardless of whether the appointment was confirmed by the common council, may generally be removed by the appointing authority at pleasure or by the common council for cause. In addition, a member of a board of police and fire commissioners who is appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the common council may be removed by the common council for cause. However, a city may provide by ordinance that any appointed city officer may be removed only for cause. The Act also retains the exception that individuals subject to a civil service law may only be removed as provided therein.

*Effective date:* March 30, 2018

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