June 15, 2017 – Introduced by Senator L. TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives KESSLER, WACHS, SINICKI, BERCEAU and SUBECK. Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

AN ACT to create 755.175 of the statutes; relating to: requiring a municipal judge to be a licensed Wisconsin attorney.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a person may be elected or appointed as a municipal judge if the person is a qualified elector of the municipality in which election or appointment is sought. A qualified elector is a U.S. citizen age 18 or older who has resided in an election district or ward for a certain number of consecutive days before any election where the citizen offers to vote. Beginning on January 1, 2018, this bill requires a person seeking to be elected or appointed as a municipal judge to be an attorney licensed to practice in this state and a member in good standing of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

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

SECTION 1. 755.175 of the statutes is created to read:

755.175 Municipal judge must be an attorney. Beginning on January 1, 2018, no person may qualify for election or appointment as a judge unless the person
is an attorney licensed to practice in this state and a member in good standing of the State Bar of Wisconsin.