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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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March 9, 2020

**2019 Wisconsin Act 113**  
[2019 Assembly Bill 86]

**Dishonesty Insurance Policies  
for Town Municipal Judges**

### **BACKGROUND**

To protect a community from financial harm that arises from the malfeasance of a local city, village, or town official, state law contains bonding and insurance requirements. For example, to provide protections against the malfeasance of a city or village municipal judge, the statutes require that either of the following occur: (1) the city or village municipal judge must execute and file an official bond, if required by the governing body; or (2) the city or village governing body must obtain a dishonesty insurance policy or other appropriate insurance policy that covers the city or village municipal judge. With respect to a town municipal judge, it was unclear under prior law as to whether or not the town board had the authority to obtain a dishonesty insurance policy or other appropriate insurance policy to cover the town municipal judge.

### **2019 WISCONSIN ACT 113**

2019 Wisconsin Act 113 authorizes a town board to choose whether to require a municipal town judge to execute and file an official bond or to obtain a dishonesty or other appropriate insurance policy that covers the town municipal judge.

**Effective date:** March 1, 2020

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