March 16, 2021 - Introduced by Senators STROEBEL, DARLING, ROTH, FEYEN, MARKEIN, WANGGAARD, BRADLEY, BALLWEG and FELZKOWSKI, cosponsored by Representatives NEYLON, MAGNIFICI, EDMING, STEFFEN, KERKMAN, KNOGL, SPIROS, KRUG, BROOKS, LOUDENBECK, GUNDRUM, KUGLITSCH, MURPHY, WICHGERS, VANDERMEER and MACCO. Referred to Committee on Elections, Election Process Reform and Ethics.

AN ACT to amend 5.05 (5s) (a) of the statutes; relating to: publication of Elections Commission meeting minutes.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law requires the Elections Commission to permit inspection of records that are distributed or discussed during a meeting or hearing by the commission in open session. This bill requires the commission also to post on its Internet site the minutes of each of its meetings and hearings no later than 24 hours after the completion of the meeting or hearing. The posted minutes must include a summary of every action that the commission voted on, a record of each member’s vote for or against every action requiring a vote, a record of all motions and seconds made by each member, and a record of each member’s status as being present or absent for any part of a meeting or hearing. Finally, the bill requires the commission to maintain the minutes on its Internet site so that the minutes are accessible to the public at all times.

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

SECTION 1. 5.05 (5s) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

5.05 (5s) (a) The commission shall permit inspection of records that are distributed or discussed in the course of a meeting or hearing by the commission in
open session. The commission shall post on its Internet site the minutes of each meeting or hearing conducted by the commission in open session no later than 24 hours after the completion of the meeting or hearing. The commission may indicate whether minutes posted on its Internet site have been approved by the commission or are in preliminary form. Minutes posted pursuant to this paragraph shall include a summary of every action that the commission voted on, a record of each member’s vote for or against every action requiring a vote, a record of all motions and seconds made by each member, and a record of each member’s status as being present or absent for any part of a meeting or hearing. The commission shall maintain all minutes published under this paragraph on its Internet site so that the minutes are accessible to the public at all times.