



State of Wisconsin
2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0986/P1

EVM:cdc

DOA:.....Schmidt, BB0081 - Police officer citizenship

FOR 2025-2027 BUDGET -- NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

AN ACT ...; relating to: the budget.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Exception to local law enforcement officer citizenship requirement

Under current law, no person may be appointed as a deputy sheriff of any county or police officer of any city, village, or town unless that person is a citizen of the United States. This bill allows the sheriff of a county or the appointing authority of a local law enforcement agency to elect to authorize the appointment of noncitizens who are in receipt of valid employment authorization from the federal Department of Homeland Security as deputy sheriffs or police officers. The bill also prevents the law enforcement standards board from preventing such a noncitizen from participating in a law enforcement preparatory training program.

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

SECTION 1. 66.0501 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 66.0501 (1) (a) and amended to read:

66.0501 (1) (a) ~~No~~ Except as provided in par. (b), no person may be appointed deputy sheriff of any county or police officer for any city, village, or town unless that person is a citizen of the United States. This section does not apply to common carriers or to a deputy sheriff not required to take an oath of office.

SECTION 2. 66.0501 (1) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

66.0501 (1) (b) The sheriff of a county or the appointing authority of a local law enforcement agency that provides police service to a city, village, or town may

BILL**SECTION 2**

elect to authorize the appointment of noncitizens who are in receipt of valid employment authorization from the federal department of homeland security as deputy sheriffs for that county or as police officers for that city, village, or town.

SECTION 3. 165.85 (4) (a) 1m. of the statutes is created to read:

165.85 (4) (a) 1m. The board may not create criteria for participation in the preparatory training program under subd. 1. that would prevent a person from participation if the person is in receipt of a valid employment authorization from the federal department of homeland security.

(END)