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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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**2011 Wisconsin Act 227**  
[2011 Senate Bill 271]

**Return of Absentee Ballots and  
Voting In Person and by Absentee  
Ballot**

*2011 Wisconsin Act 227* alters election law regarding absentee ballots. The Act makes changes relating to the return of absentee ballots to voters by clerks, the ability to vote by absentee ballot and in person at the same election, and the submission of proof of identification with an electronic application for an absentee ballot.

**RETURN OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS BY CLERKS**

*Act 227* prohibits a municipal clerk from returning an absentee ballot to a voter once the voter mails or personally delivers the absentee ballot to the clerk, except under specified circumstances. A clerk may return an absentee ballot to a voter if the ballot has an improperly completed certificate or no certificate and there is time for the voter to correct the defect and return the ballot. A clerk may also issue a new absentee ballot to a voter if the voter returns a spoiled or damaged absentee ballot to the clerk and the clerk believes that the ballot was issued to that voter.

**VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT AND IN PERSON**

*Act 227* prohibits a voter who submits an absentee ballot from also voting at the polls. The Act specifies that a voter who mails or personally delivers an absentee ballot to the municipal clerk at an election is not permitted to vote in person at the same election on Election Day.

**ELECTRONIC APPLICATIONS FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION**

*Act 227* requires an individual who applies for an absentee ballot by fax or email to enclose a copy of his or her proof of identification with the application, rather than enclosing the proof of identification with the completed ballot.

**Effective date:** *Act 227* takes effect on April 20, 2012.

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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.state.wi.us/>.