



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AMENDMENT MEMO

2011 Senate Bill 259

**Senate Amendments
1, 2, 3, 4, and 5**

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Senate Bill 259

2011 Senate Bill 259 creates the elected office of County Comptroller in counties with a population of 750,000 or more. Under the bill, the County Comptroller is elected at the nonpartisan spring election to serve a four-year term and will be first elected in April of 2012. Senate Bill 259 specifies that any person who holds the office of County Comptroller must either be a certified public accountant or have a master's degree or doctorate degree in accounting or finance. The bill also enumerates duties and responsibilities for the County Comptroller.

Senate Amendment 1

Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 259 specifies the number of signatures required on nomination papers for the office of County Comptroller. The amendment requires a candidate to collect not less than 500 nor more than 1,000 signatures from electors.

Senate Amendment 2

Senate Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 259 specifies auditing standards to be used by the County Comptroller in performing auditing functions. The amendment requires that the auditing functions be performed in accordance with Governmental Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and generally accepted auditing standards.

Senate Amendment 3

Senate Amendment 3 to Senate Bill 259 requires the County Comptroller to submit an annual report to the Governor, Department of Revenue, Department of Administration, and the Chief Clerks of the Senate and Assembly regarding the county's unfunded employee retirement system liability.

Senate Amendment 4

Senate Amendment 4 to Senate Bill 259 inserts references to the office of County Comptroller into existing election laws regarding spring primary ballots and spring election ballots. The amendment also specifies that a primary is held for the office of County Comptroller whenever there are more than two candidates running for the office.

Senate Amendment 5

Senate Amendment 5 to Senate Bill 259 requires the Milwaukee County Executive, upon enactment of the 2012 fiscal year budget for Milwaukee County, to certify to the Secretary of Administration the amount of total appropriations for the functions of the Milwaukee County Treasurer and Comptroller derived from property tax revenues, sales tax revenues, and fees paid to either office. The amendment further specifies that Milwaukee County may not exceed the certified amount in paying for the functions of County Treasurer and Comptroller during Milwaukee County's 2012 fiscal year.

Legislative History

Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 259 was offered by Senators Taylor and Darling on October 31, 2011. Senate Amendment 2 was offered by Senators Taylor, Darling, and Carpenter on November 1, 2011. Senate Amendment 3 was offered by Senators Taylor and Darling on November 1, 2011.

The Senate Committee on Transportation and Elections recommended adoption of each amendment on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0. The committee then recommended adoption of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 4; Noes, 1.

Senate Amendments 4 and 5 to Senate Bill 259 were offered by Senators Taylor and Darling on November 1, 2011. The Senate adopted the amendments on November 2, 2011, and passed Senate Bill 259, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 22; Noes, 10.

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