



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2013 Senate Bill 548**

**Senate Amendment 1**

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*Contact:* Katie Bender-Olson, Staff Attorney (266-2988)

Senate Bill 548 relates to four-year maintenance conducted on the state voter registration list.

### Current Law

Current law requires municipal clerks and boards of election commissioners (local clerks) to examine the voter registration records for their municipalities within 90 days of a general election to identify any elector who has not voted within the last four years. The clerk must mail a notice to each identified elector informing the elector that his or her voter registration will be suspended unless the elector applies for continuation of registration within 30 days. If the elector fails to do so, the clerk must change the elector's registration from eligible to ineligible. This process of updating the Statewide Voter Registration System by mailing notices to electors who have not voted in four years is commonly referred to as "four-year maintenance."

### Senate Bill 548

Senate Bill 548 transfers responsibility for reviewing the registration list and mailing notices to the Government Accountability Board (GAB). As under current law, an elector who wishes to continue his or her registration after receiving a notification will return the application to the local clerk.

The bill also transfers responsibility for changing the registration status of electors who fail to apply for continuation registration to GAB, but authorizes GAB to delegate responsibility back to local clerks.

In addition, the bill extends the deadline for mailing the notices from 90 days after each general election to no later than June 15 following each general election.

Finally, the bill requires GAB to compile and post certain statistics on its Internet site relating to the mailing and return of the notices. The GAB must post statistics such as the total number of notices mailed, the number returned as undeliverable, and the number of electors whose status changed from eligible to ineligible.

### **Senate Amendment 1**

Senate Amendment 1 is a technical revision correcting an incorrect reference to certain notices being returned to GAB because the notices are actually returned to local clerks.

### **Bill History**

Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Lazich on February 7, 2014. The Senate Committee on Elections and Urban Affairs recommended adoption of the amendment on February 12, 2014, on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

KBO:ksm