



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2015 Assembly Bill 723

Assembly Amendment 1

Memo published: February 11, 2016 *Contact:* Jessica Karls-Ruplinger, Deputy Director (266-2230)

Assembly Bill 723 relates to production of photo identification cards (“photo ID”) by local units of government.

ASSEMBLY BILL 723

Assembly Bill 723 does the following: (1) generally prohibits towns and counties from issuing photo ID; (2) prohibits photo ID issued by cities and villages from being used for specified purposes; and (3) prohibits a locally issued identification card (“ID”) that has been previously used as proof of residence for registering to vote from being used for that purpose going forward.

Town- or County-Issued ID

The bill prohibits a town or county from issuing or expending funds for the issuance of photo ID for any of its residents. However, the bill contains an exception for local government employees. A town or county may issue, or expend funds for issuance of, photo ID for an employee of the town or county that relates to the employee’s job duties.

City- or Village-Issued ID

The bill permits issuance of photo ID by cities and villages, but prohibits such photo ID from being used for particular purposes. The bill provides that a city- or village-issued photo ID may not be used for any of the following purposes: (1) as proof of residence when registering to vote; (2) as proof of identification for voting (commonly referred to as “Voter ID”); or (3) to obtain public assistance benefits. The bill defines “public assistance benefits” as services, benefits, payments, or other assistance provided under a program administered by the Department of Health Services or the Department of Children and Families under s. 253.06 or ch. 49, Stats.

The bill also imposes a requirement on cities and villages that choose to issue photo ID. The bill provides that if a city or village does issue, or expend funds to issue, a photo ID for residents, then the photo ID must state "Not authorized for voting purposes" clearly on its face in 12 point type.

Proof of Residence

The bill prohibits use of locally issued ID as proof of residence for registering to vote, even if the ID was previously used for this purpose. State law requires an individual to provide proof of residence when registering to vote, and specifies a list of identifying documents that may be used. To be used as proof of residence, a document must appear on the list and must also contain a current and complete name and residential address. One of the specified documents that may be used as proof of residence is an "official identification card or license issued by a Wisconsin governmental body or unit."

The bill provides that if any town- or county-issued ID (other than an employee photo ID), was previously used as proof of residence for voter registration, that ID is not valid for such purposes after the bill becomes effective. Similarly, the bill provides that if any city- or village-issued ID was previously used as proof of residence for voter registration, that card is not valid for such purposes after the bill becomes effective. This provision prohibits use of any existing, locally issued ID as proof of residence, even if the ID was previously used as proof of residence.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 permits towns and counties to issue photo ID for additional purposes. In addition to issuing photo ID for employees, the amendment allows a town or county to issue, or expend funds for issuance of, a photo ID for the following additional purposes:

1. An employee of a vendor or contractor that contracts with the town or county, or an employee of a subcontractor that contracts with the vendor or contractor, if the photo ID relates to the employee's job duties for the town or county.
2. To use a transit system owned or operated by the town or county.
3. To use or access services or facilities owned by the town or county.
4. An employee or student of an institution of higher education that contracts with the town or county, if the photo ID relates to the employee's or student's job duties for the town or county.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Sanfelippo on January 26, 2016. On February 10, 2016, the Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations recommended adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 10; Noes, 3.

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