



2003 ASSEMBLY BILL 539

September 29, 2003 - Introduced by Representatives FOTI, NISCHKE, WARD, M. LEHMAN, LADWIG, OLSEN, SERATTI, LEMAHIEU, KREIBICH, AINSWORTH, HINES, MONTGOMERY, F. LASEE, HAHN, KRAWCZYK, GUNDERSON, LOEFFELHOLZ, BIES, J. WOOD, VAN ROY, J. FITZGERALD, MCCORMICK and GROTHMAN, cosponsored by Senator ZIEN. Referred to Committee on Energy and Utilities.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 15.79; and *to create* 15.06 (1) (f) of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 appointment of members to the Public Service Commission.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the three members of the Public Service Commission are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, for six-year terms. Under this bill, one of the members is appointed by the speaker of the assembly, one of the members is appointed by the senate majority leader, and one of the members is appointed by the governor. As under current law, the members have six-year terms.

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

3 **SECTION 1.** 15.06 (1) (f) of the statutes is created to read:
4 15.06 (1) (f) The members of the public service commission shall be appointed
5 for 6-year terms expiring on March 1 of odd-numbered years as follows:
6 1. One member shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly.
7 2. One member shall be appointed by the senate majority leader.

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3. One member shall be appointed by the governor.

SECTION 2. 15.79 of the statutes is amended to read:

15.79 Public service commission; creation. There is created a public service commission. Members of the commission shall be appointed under s. 15.06 (1) (f). No member of the commission may have a financial interest in a railroad or public utility. If any member voluntarily becomes so interested, the member’s office shall become vacant. If the member involuntarily becomes so interested, the member’s office shall become vacant unless the member divests himself or herself of the interest within a reasonable time. No commissioner may serve on or under any committee of a political party. Each commissioner shall hold office until a successor is appointed and qualified.

SECTION 3. Nonstatutory provisions.

(1) Notwithstanding section 15.06 (1) (f) of the statutes, as created by this act:

- (a) The members of the public service commission on the effective date of this paragraph may serve on the commission until the completion of their terms.

- (b) The speaker of the assembly shall appoint a successor to the first member of the public service commission who vacates his or her office after the effective date of this paragraph.

- (c) The senate majority leader shall appoint a successor to the 2nd member of the public service commission who vacates his or her office after the effective date of this paragraph.

(END)