

**1977 Senate Bill 17**

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**CHAPTER 134, Laws of 1977**

AN ACT to create 229.27 of the statutes, relating to authorizing establishment of a municipal theater in cities of the 1st class.

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

SECTION 1. 229.27 of the statutes is created to read:

**229.27 Municipal Theater.** (1) Any city of the 1st class may, in addition to all other powers conferred upon it, establish and maintain a municipal theater hereinafter termed "theater", for the purpose of providing a community facility to further the

advancement of the performing arts and other related purposes of a public nature which are hereby declared to be public purposes.

(2) An independent board shall be designated by the local governing body as the "(City) Theater Board". The board shall be composed of the number of members as provided for by resolution adopted by the local governing body of the city. The local governing body shall prescribe the terms of members of the board. Members shall be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the local governing body.

(3) The board shall have complete and autonomous control of the building, maintenance, supervision and operation of the theater; and shall regulate, control and designate the use thereof. The board shall also fix the terms and conditions for use of the theater and do all things necessary for the maintenance and operation thereof and shall handle all finances of the theater. The board shall also contract or otherwise provide for personnel and other services and rentals necessary for the operation of the facility. The board may sue and be sued.

(4) Title to all property, real or personal, of the theater shall be in the name of such city and shall be held by such city perpetually for such purposes, but the board shall determine the use to which such property shall be devoted under this section. The theater board shall not transfer title or property to the county.

(5) The local governing body of such city may appropriate such sums as may be required to supplement revenues of the theater in order for the board to regulate, control and operate the theater. As in the judgment of such board shall be consistent and in keeping with the general operation and public purposes of the theater, the board may receive, hold and manage any devise, bequest, donation or loan for the establishment, increase or maintenance thereof, under such regulations and conditions as may be prescribed pursuant to law or agreed upon by and between the donors and the board.

(6) The local governing body may by resolution adopted by it impose additional duties and responsibilities upon the board in connection with the operation, maintenance and control of the theater, however the board shall itself determine the manner in which such operations shall be performed.

(7) In addition to all other powers of the board, the board may hire and retain all personnel, or contract or designate responsibility for the supervision of the theater and the board shall determine the manner of selection of all of its employes, contracts or designees. The board shall establish the compensation for its personnel. The board may enter into contracts on behalf of the board without first obtaining approval of the local governing body of the city, and such contracts may be entered into with respect to all matters which relate to the operation, control and use of the theater as determined by the board.

(8) The board shall report annually or more frequently as the local governing body so determines with respect to all receipts and disbursements of the board, balances of the board's funds and all other matters which bear upon the board's operations. Expenditures made by the board from funds under its control shall not require the approval of the local governing body of the city.

(9) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, all actions of the board may be reviewed, modified or nullified by appropriate action of the local governing body.

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