



2013 SENATE BILL 506

January 21, 2014 – Introduced by Senator LAZICH, cosponsored by Representative THIESFELDT. Referred to Elections and Urban Affairs.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 6.50 (1), 6.50 (2) and 6.50 (7); and *to create* 6.50 (2m) of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** transferring responsibility over biennial updating of
3 voter registration list to the Government Accountability Board.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law requires the municipal clerk or the board of election commissioners of each municipality (municipal clerk) to examine the voter registration records for that municipality within 90 days of each general election to identify any elector who was qualified to vote over the preceding four years but who has not voted within that four-year period (nonvoting elector). The municipal clerk must mail a “Notice of Suspension of Registration” to each nonvoting elector informing the elector that the elector’s registration will be suspended if the elector does not apply for continuation of registration within 30 days. If the nonvoting elector fails to apply for continuation of registration as directed, the municipal clerk must change the elector’s registration status from eligible to ineligible.

This bill transfers responsibility for reviewing each municipality’s voter registration records and mailing the Notice of Suspension of Registration forms from the municipal clerk to the Government Accountability Board (GAB). The bill authorizes GAB to delegate these responsibilities back to the municipal clerk. The bill also changes the date by which this notification must occur from within 90 days following each general election to no later than June 15 following each general election. Under the bill, the nonvoting elector must return the application for continuation of registration to the elector’s municipal clerk.

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For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 6.50 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 6.50 (1) ~~Within 90 days~~ No later than June 15 following each general election,
3 the ~~municipal clerk or board of election commissioners of each municipality~~ shall
4 examine the registration records for each municipality and identify each elector who
5 has not voted within the previous 4 years if qualified to do so during that entire period
6 and. The board shall mail a notice to the elector in substantially the following form:

7 “NOTICE OF SUSPENSION OF
8 REGISTRATION

9 You are hereby notified that your voter registration will be suspended,
10 according to state law, for failure to vote within the previous 4-year period, unless
11 you apply for continuation of your registration within 30 days. You may continue
12 your registration by signing the statement below and returning it to ~~this~~ the office
13 of the municipal clerk (mailing address and telephone number of office of
14 municipal clerk or board of election commissioners) by mail or in person.

15 APPLICATION FOR CONTINUATION
16 OF REGISTRATION

17 I hereby certify that I still reside at the address at which I am registered and
18 apply for continuation of registration.

19 Signed

20 Present Address

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1 If you have changed your residence within this municipality or changed your
2 name, please contact ~~this~~ the office of the municipal clerk ... (mailing address and
3 telephone number of office of municipal clerk or board of election commissioners) to
4 complete a change of name or address form.

5 [Office of clerk or board of election commissioners

6 Address

7 Telephone]”.

8 **SECTION 2.** 6.50 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 6.50 (2) ~~The municipal clerk or~~ If an elector to whom a notice of suspension was
10 mailed under sub. (1) has not applied for continuation of registration within 30 days
11 of the date of mailing, the board of ~~election commissioners~~ shall change the
12 registration status of all ~~notified electors under sub. (1) who have not applied for~~
13 ~~continuation of registration within 30 days of the date of mailing of the notice of~~
14 ~~suspension~~ that elector from eligible to ineligible status.

15 **SECTION 3.** 6.50 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

16 6.50 (2m) The board may delegate to a municipal clerk or board of election
17 commissioners of a municipality the responsibility to mail to the electors of that
18 municipality a notice of suspension under sub. (1) and to change the registration
19 status of electors when required under sub. (2).

20 **SECTION 4.** 6.50 (7) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 6.50 (7) When an elector’s registration is changed from eligible to ineligible
22 status, the board, municipal clerk, or board of election commissioners shall make an
23 entry on the registration list, giving the date of and reason for the change.

24 **SECTION 5. Initial applicability.**

