



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 107
[2013 Senate Bill 275]

Municipal Courts

Wisconsin Act 107 makes several changes to current law relating to municipal courts and municipal court judges.

First, it eliminates references to the circuit court clerk's responsibilities to file the oaths and bonds taken by municipal judges. Current law requires the clerk of the city, town, or village where the judge was elected to file the judge's oath and bond.

Second, the Act eliminates the requirement that a law enforcement officer, an attorney representing the municipality, or a conservation warden, municipal official, or municipal employee sign a municipal citation or complaint. The Act instead requires the citation or complaint to contain the name of the law enforcement officer, attorney, or conservation warden, municipal official, or municipal employee.

Third, the Act gives a municipal judge the authority to enter a default judgment at a municipal trial if the defendant fails to appear. This adds to a municipal judge's authority to enter a default judgment if the defendant fails to make an initial appearance or to make a deposit for the amount set for the violation.

Finally, the Act deletes obsolete references to payment for appeal transcripts.

Effective date: Act 107 took effect on December 15, 2013.

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February 18, 2014

AS:jb;ksm

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.