

WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2003 Assembly Bill 256

Assembly Amendment 1 and Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Amendment 1

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<u>Current Law</u>

Under current common law principles, public office holders generally may not hold an incompatible position of public employment. However, the statutes provide some exceptions to this rule. One exception provides that a volunteer firefighter, emergency medical technician, or first responder in a city, village, or town whose annual compensation from one or more of those positions, including fringe benefits, does not exceed \$15,000 may also hold an elective office in that city, village, or town.

Assembly Bill 256

2003 Assembly Bill 256 adds a part-time seasonal employee in a park and recreational program to the above exception. Thus, if the bill is enacted without amendment, a volunteer firefighter, emergency medical technician, first responder, or a part-time seasonal employee in a park and recreational program in a city, village, or town whose annual compensation for one or more of these positions does not exceed \$15,000 may also hold an elective office in that city, village, or town.

<u>Assembly Amendment 1</u>

Assembly Amendment 1 modifies the bill by changing the amount that a part-time seasonal employee in a park and recreational program may earn while holding elective office. Under Assembly Amendment 1, a part-time seasonal employee in a park and recreational program whose annual compensation from that position does not exceed \$2,500 may also hold an elective office in that city, village, or town.

Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Amendment 1

Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Amendment 1 clarifies that the annual compensation for a part-time seasonal employee in a park and recreational program is the employee's *total* annual compensation from *all employment* as a park and recreational employee for the municipality in which the employee also holds or is eligible to hold elective office.

Legislative History

Assembly Amendment 1 and Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Amendment 1 were introduced by the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections on July 24, 2003. Both amendments were recommended for adoption on unanimous votes of the committee. The bill, as amended, was also recommended for passage by a unanimous vote of the committee.

RJC:rv:jal;wu