



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Assembly Bill 64

Senate Amendment 2

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Under **current law**, the polls at an election in a first, second, or third class city must generally be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. In a village, town, or fourth class city, the polls must be open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. However, the village, town, or city may extend the opening hour to not earlier than 7:00 a.m.

2005 Assembly Bill 64 requires the polls at every election to be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in all municipalities.

Senate Amendment 2 to 2005 Assembly Bill 64 provides that any municipality that maintained polling hours that begin later than 7:00 a.m. prior to the effective date of the bill and that incurs additional costs to adjust its polling hours to begin at 7:00 a.m. at any election held after the effective date of the bill may file a claim with the Elections Board for reimbursement of those costs. The claim must be accompanied by appropriate substantiation of all costs incurred. The Elections Board is required to audit the claim and, if it finds that the costs have been incurred by the municipality and the costs would not have been incurred but for the requirement to open polling places at 7:00 a.m., the board is required to reimburse the municipality for those costs. To be payable, claims must be submitted within 60 days following the date on which the costs are incurred. Finally, the amendment creates a sum sufficient appropriation for the Elections Board to pay claims submitted under the amendment.

Legislative History

On May 3, 2005, Senate Amendment 2 was introduced by Senator Decker and adopted by the Senate on a voice vote. Also on that date, the bill, as amended, was concurred in by the Senate on a voice vote.

RJC:jal