



1995 SENATE BILL 648

March 21, 1996 - Introduced by Senator RUDE, cosponsored by Representative PROSSER. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 **AN ACT to repeal** 230.35 (4) (a) 2.; **to amend** 230.35 (4) (c) and 230.35 (4) (d)
2 (intro.); and **to repeal and recreate** 230.35 (4) (b) of the statutes; **relating to:**
3 state holidays and paid holidays for state employees.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, all offices of the agencies of state government are closed on Saturdays, Sundays and a total of 9.5 state holidays. Among these holidays is the afternoon hours on Good Friday. Under current law, nonrepresented state employees receive a total of 9.5 paid holidays annually, which include a paid holiday for the afternoon of Good Friday, while represented employees receive a paid holiday for that afternoon if their collective bargaining agreements so provide. In addition, nonrepresented state employees receive a total of 3 paid personal holidays annually. In *Freedom from Religion Foundation, Inc. v. Thompson*, __ F. Supp. __ (W.D. Wis., February 23, 1996), the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin found that granting the state holiday of the afternoon on Good Friday was in violation of the establishment clause of the first amendment to the U.S. constitution.

This bill eliminates the state holiday of Good Friday, with the result that there are 9 state holidays. The bill also reduces the number of paid holidays for nonrepresented state employees to 9 paid holidays annually, but increases the number of paid personal holidays to 3.5 days.

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:

4 **SECTION 1.** 230.35 (4) (a) 2. of the statutes is repealed.

