



## 1997 ASSEMBLY BILL 371

May 22, 1997 - Introduced by Representatives SCHNEIDER, LA FAVE, R. POTTER, HASENOHRL, SPRINGER, BOYLE, NOTESTEIN and ROBSON, cosponsored by Senator CLAUSING. Referred to Committee on Elections and Constitutional Law.

- 1     **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 15.61; and *to create* 5.05 (10) and 15.61 (1)  
2             (a), (b) and (d) and (2) of the statutes; **relating to:** composition of the elections  
3             board and the number of votes required to act upon matters before the board.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Currently, the elections board consists of 8 members appointed by the governor for 2-year terms without senate confirmation. One member is selected by the governor and one member each is designated by the chief justice of the supreme court, the speaker of the assembly, the senate majority leader, the minority leader in each house of the legislature, and the chief officer of each political party qualifying for a separate ballot or column on the ballot whose candidate for governor received at least 10% of the vote in the most recent gubernatorial election.

This bill recreates the board to consist of 9 members appointed by various persons and groups, including 3 members appointed by Common Cause in Wisconsin, 3 members appointed by the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Inc., one member appointed by the state chairperson of each political party whose candidate for governor received the greatest or 2nd greatest number of votes cast in the most recent gubernatorial election and one member appointed by the director of state courts. The members serve for indefinite terms and may be removed and replaced by their appointing authorities. Under the bill, no member may have been, or while serving on the board may become, a member of a political party or a partisan state or county elective official.

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Under the bill, the members of the current board serve until all of the members of the board who are appointed under the bill qualify for office, at which time the current members are replaced.

Currently, a majority of the members present and voting, if a quorum is present, is required to act upon any matter before the board. Under the bill, the concurrence of at least 5 members is required to act upon any matter before the board.

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

1           **SECTION 1.** 5.05 (10) of the statutes is created to read:

2           5.05 (10) ACTIONS OF THE BOARD. The concurrence of at least 5 members is  
3 required for the board to act upon any matter before it.

4           **SECTION 2.** 15.61 of the statutes is renumbered 15.61 (1) (intro.) and amended  
5 to read:

6           15.61 (1) (intro.) There is created an elections board consisting of the following  
7 ~~persons who shall be appointed by the governor for 2-year terms as follows: one~~  
8 ~~member selected by the governor; one member each designated by the chief justice~~  
9 ~~of the supreme court, the speaker of the assembly, the senate majority leader, the~~  
10 ~~minority leader in each house of the legislature, and;~~

11           (c) One member appointed by the chief officer state chairperson of each political  
12 party ~~qualifying for a separate ballot under s. 5.62 (1) (b) or (2) whose candidate for~~  
13 ~~governor received at least 10% of the vote~~ the greatest and 2nd greatest number of  
14 votes cast in the most recent gubernatorial election.

15           **SECTION 3.** 15.61 (1) (a), (b) and (d) and (2) of the statutes are created to read:

16           15.61 (1) (a) Three members appointed by Common Cause in Wisconsin.

17           (b) Three members appointed by the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Inc.

18           (d) One member appointed by the director of state courts.

