



## 2005 SENATE BILL 564

February 3, 2006 - Introduced by Senators KANAVAS and STEPP, cosponsored by Representatives MURSAU, LEMAHIEU, LOTHIAN, GUNDERSON, KERKMAN, VOS, STRACHOTA and JESKEWITZ. Referred to Committee on Labor and Election Process Reform.

1     **AN ACT** *to amend* 5.66 (1), 7.15 (2) (b) and 7.15 (2) (c); and *to create* 5.66 (1m)  
2             of the statutes; **relating to:** the number of ballots authorized to be printed at  
3             an election.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Currently, the county clerk or board of election commissioners of each county is generally responsible for printing ballots for elections, except that each municipality must print ballots when required for local elections; a first class city (Milwaukee) may print its own ballots for any election; any municipality that uses an electronic voting system may print ballots with the permission of the county clerk or board of election commissioners of the county or counties in which the municipality is located; and no ballots are printed for distribution to electors in a municipality that uses voting machines. When printed, ballots for an election must be printed in a sufficient quantity to assure a ballot for each elector voting at the election. There is no limit on the number of ballots that may be printed.

This bill prohibits any county or municipality that prints ballots for distribution to electors at any election from printing ballots prior to election day in a number greater than 150 percent of the votes cast in the county or municipality at the most recent election that corresponds to the election for which ballots are to be printed, as prescribed in the bill.

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

**SENATE BILL 564****SECTION 1**

1           **SECTION 1.** 5.66 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           5.66 (1) ~~For Except as provided in sub. (1m), for~~ local elections, where  
3 necessary, municipal clerks shall have sufficient ballots printed or otherwise  
4 prepared whenever a voting system does not utilize printed ballots to assure a ballot  
5 for all electors or voting machines. For all other elections the municipal clerks shall  
6 certify to their county clerk, on the first day of the 2nd month preceding the month  
7 in which the primary is held, the approximate number of electors in the municipality.  
8 The county clerk shall total these estimates and order a sufficient supply to assure  
9 ballots for all electors and voting machines.

10           **SECTION 2.** 5.66 (1m) of the statutes is created to read:

11           5.66 (1m) No county or municipality that prints ballots for distribution to  
12 electors may print ballots for any election prior to election day in a number greater  
13 than 150 percent of the votes cast in the county or municipality at the most recent  
14 election that corresponds to the election for which ballots are to be printed. For  
15 purposes of this subsection, the most recent spring election corresponds to a current  
16 spring election; the most recent presidential election corresponds to a current  
17 general election at which the president is to be elected; the most recent gubernatorial  
18 election corresponds to a current general election at which the governor is to be  
19 elected; and the most recent regular election for an office to be filled at a special  
20 election corresponds to a special election called to fill the same office.

21           **SECTION 3.** 7.15 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

22           7.15 (2) (b) Cities over 500,000 population may prepare their own official and  
23 sample ballots, subject to s. 5.66 (1m). Official ballots not utilized as absentee ballots  
24 shall be printed so they are ready at least 2 days before the election.

25           **SECTION 4.** 7.15 (2) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

