

SCOTT WALKER
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 7863
MADISON, WI 53707

March 27, 2014

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I have approved Senate Bill 324 as 2013 Wisconsin Act 146 and deposited it in the Office of the Secretary of State. In addition, I exercised the partial veto in Sections 1, 2d and 2m.

Senate Bill 324 establishes when in-person absentee voting may occur. Current law allows in-person absentee voting to occur between the third Monday preceding the election and the Friday preceding the election. This bill establishes the days and hours that in-person absentee voting may occur during that period to Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M., excluding legal holidays. This bill also limits a municipality to 45 total hours of in-person absentee voting per week for statewide elections.

It is important to put in place measures that ensure the integrity of the voting process. I am partially vetoing Section 1 because I object to limiting municipalities to 45 total hours of in-person absentee voting per week for statewide elections, as this limitation is overly restrictive. I am approving the language allowing in-person absentee voting between Monday and Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. and the language prohibiting in-person absentee voting on legal holidays. Such measures will help ensure consistency of the voting process throughout the state.

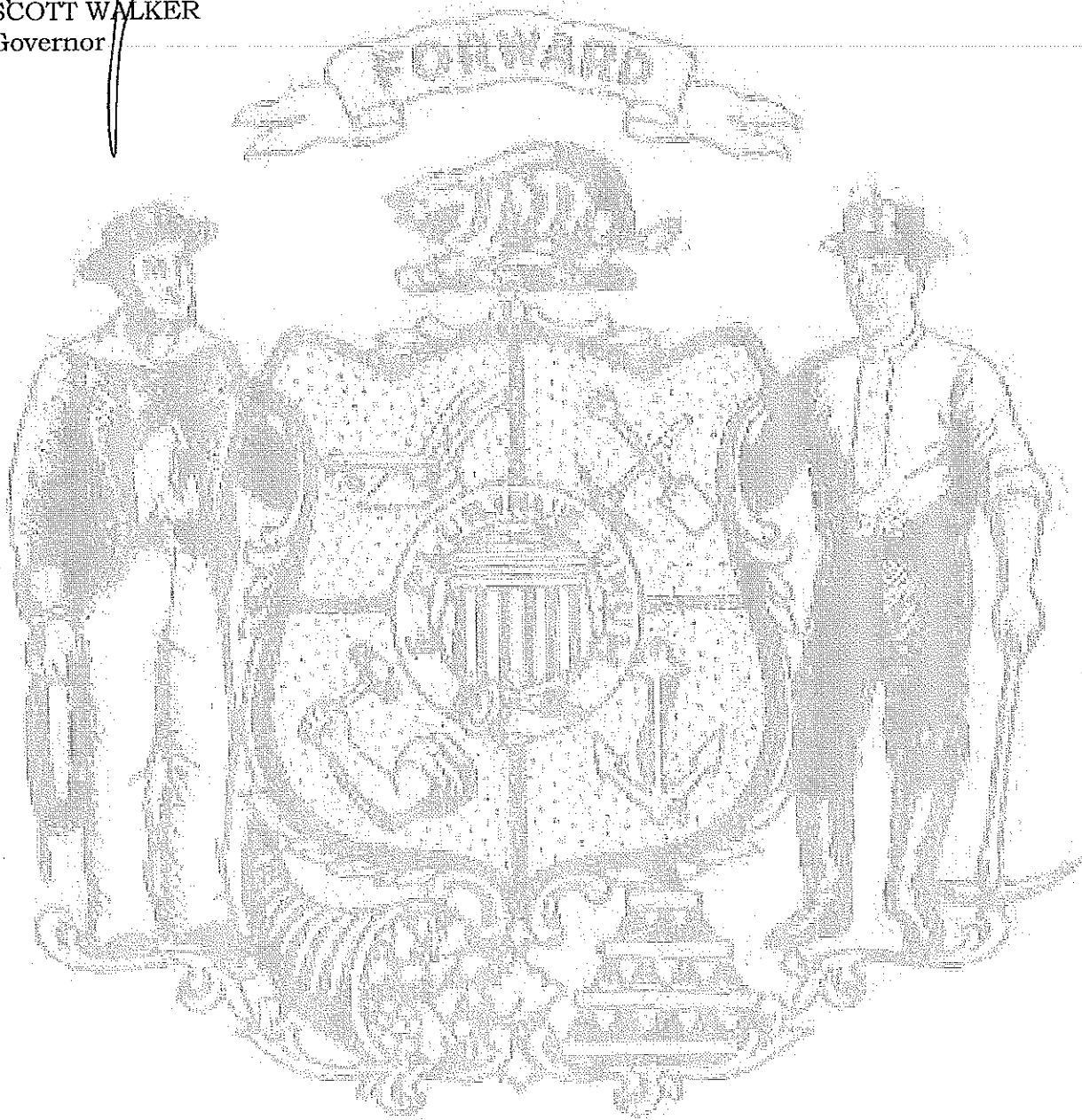
I am also vetoing Section 2d, which would allow municipalities to hire individuals to assist with in-person absentee voting, and require municipalities to provide compensation for such individuals. In addition, I am vetoing Section 2m, which creates a state appropriation for the purpose of reimbursing municipalities 50 percent of the costs incurred for hiring individuals to assist with in-person absentee voting during the 2014-15 fiscal year. I object to these provisions, as they result in a new state expenditure for a function traditionally performed by local governments.

Wisconsin needs laws that create uniform, predictable procedures in order to make voting easy and accessible to all. This bill, as partially vetoed, creates a framework for municipalities throughout the state to maintain uniform voting hours without narrowly restricting access to voting. I would further encourage a future legislature to take another step towards uniformity and align in-person absentee voting hours with the hours that polls are open on Election Day: 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. We should all

be focused on making it easier to vote, but also ensuring the integrity of the voting process by making it harder to cheat, and I fully support all efforts to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

SCOTT WALKER
Governor



WISCONSIN IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

WWW.WISGOV.STATE.WI.US • (608) 266-1212 • FAX: (608) 267-8983