



DEVIN LEMAHIEU

STATE SENATOR

Testimony on SB 94

RE: Special Council Meetings

April 12, 2017

Thank you Chairman Feyen and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Commerce, and Local Government for hearing testimony today on Senate Bill 94.

Under current law, when a mayor of a city calls a special meeting of the common council, the meeting notice must be personally delivered to each member or left at the member's place of residence at least six hours in advance of the meeting.

SB 94 is a technical fix which brings state law in line with modern methods of communication. The bill allows city council members the ability to indicate how they would like to be notified. Members will be able to receive notification by phone call, email, or by text message at any location.

SB 94 does not change the six hour minimum notice requirement, rather it allows each member to receive the notice via a method of communication that is most efficient, such as a phone call, email or text message.

This bill is supported by the League of Municipalities, City of Manitowoc, and the City of Madison.

Thank you for your consideration on Senate Bill 94.



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To: Senate Committee on Economic Development, Commerce, and Local Government
From: Curt Witynski, J.D., Assistant Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities
Date: April 12, 2017
Re: **SB 94, Process for Informing Council Members of a Special Meeting of the Common Council**

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities supports SB 94, making a technical change to the process by which a mayor is to inform council members that a special meeting has been called. The bill deletes a current law provision requiring that notice of a special meeting be delivered in writing either personally or to the council member's usual abode and replaces it with language allowing a mayor to inform council members in a manner likely to give each member notice of the meeting. This could include notice by phone call, texting, email or in writing. The bill retains the current requirement that the mayor must provide council members notice at least six hours before the special meeting.

We view this bill as modernizing and updating state law to reflect changes in technology allowing council members to be efficiently informed of a special council meeting electronically. The bill doesn't specify how notice of a special meeting is to be accomplished. Cities may choose to retain the requirement that notices of special meetings be provided to council members in writing and delivered personally to the council members. The bill creates flexibility where none exists currently.

We urge the committee to recommend passage of SB 94. Thank you for considering our comments and recommendation.