
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2021 Wisconsin Act 192 [2021 Senate Bill 312]

Composition of Local Boards of Health

2021 Wisconsin Act 192 modifies the composition of local boards of health.

Generally, local boards of health serve as the governing bodies for local health departments and may adopt regulations to protect and improve public health.¹ A local board of health may have up to nine members. At least three of the members of a local board of health must be persons with a demonstrated interest or competence in the field of public health or community health who are not elected officials or employees of the relevant county or municipality (non-public members).

Prior law required county executives and city and village officers, when appointing the three or more non-public members of a local board of health, to make a good faith effort to appoint a registered nurse and a physician.

The act modifies that good faith effort requirement in situations where a county executive or other local appointing authority is unable to locate a registered nurse or physician (or both) who is willing to serve on the local board of health. In such situations, the act instead requires the appointing authority to make a good faith effort to appoint a physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or both.

Effective date: March 20, 2022

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¹ However, local boards of health serve only as policy-making bodies in counties in which a county executive or county administrator has assumed the duties ordinarily undertaken by the board. [s. 251.04 (9), Stats.]