Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO

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2023 Assembly Bill 571

Assembly Amendment 1

2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 571

Assembly Bill 571 requires the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) to enter into or update data sharing agreements with the Department of Transportation, the Department of Corrections, and the Office of Vital Statistics to ensure that data relevant to voter eligibility is monitored and shared with WEC. The bill requires WEC to take certain actions when notified that a voter has moved, died, been convicted of a felony, or otherwise made ineligible to vote. The bill specifies that certain information indicating that a voter may have moved is reliable information for the purposes of requiring WEC and municipal clerks to take actions to verify the voter's eligibility to vote where he or she is currently registered.

The bill requires municipalities to publicly test machines used in elections according to manufacturers' standards and to notify WEC when the municipality intends to rent a machine for election administration.

The bill requires WEC to ensure that municipal clerks receive at least three hours of training before administering an election and requires municipalities to notify WEC and the county clerk if a clerk does not receive the required training or if a vacancy occurs close to an election. Under the bill, the county clerk may provide the training and may, if circumstances allow, assume election administration duties on behalf of a municipality within the county.

The bill requires the WEC to review and update as necessary, at least once every four years, all forms that WEC provides to the public, including ballot and registration forms.

Finally, the bill requires WEC to remove all default dates of birth and dates of registration that are on the official voter registration list and to update the registration list with each voter's actual date of birth and date of registration.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 requires WEC to conduct, and school district clerks to attend, regular training in the administration of school district elections.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Amendment 1 was introduced on October 31, 2023, by Representative Maxey. On November 7, 2023, the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections voted to recommend adoption of the amendment by a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0, and to recommend passage of the bill as amended by a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 3.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's bill history page.

PJH:jal