
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2023 Senate Bill 582

Senate Amendment 1

2023 SENATE BILL 582

2023 Senate Bill 582 modifies the definition of a person who may receive absentee ballots as an “indefinitely confined” voter. Under the bill, a person may apply, on an application form that is separate from any other application form, for that status for the purpose of voting absentee if he or she is indefinitely confined and cannot travel independently without significant burden because of frailty, physical illness, or a disability that is expected to last longer than one year.

The bill additionally requires a person who applies for indefinitely confined voter status to provide proof of identification, if he or she is able to do so, and offers various means of complying with this requirement. The bill specifies that municipal clerks must remove the indefinitely confined status from a person who votes in person in any election or who fails to vote in a spring or general election for which he or she has received a ballot. Additionally, the bill requires the Wisconsin Elections Commission to facilitate the removal of the indefinitely confined status of each voter who applied for that status between March 12, 2020, and November 3, 2020.

Under the bill, a voter whose indefinitely confined status is so removed must submit a new application for indefinitely confined status in order to continue automatically receiving absentee ballots. Under the bill, a person who makes a false statement for the purpose of qualifying as indefinitely confined may be fined not more than \$1,000, imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 requires municipal clerks to notify voters who have their indefinitely confined status removed because they applied between March 12, 2020, and November 3, 2020, to notify the voter of such removal within five days after the action is taken, if possible.

BILL HISTORY

Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Knodl on November 9, 2023. On November 10, 2023, the Senate Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections, and Consumer Protection adopted Senate Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0. The committee then passed Senate Bill 582, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature’s [bill history page](#).

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