

State of Misconsin 2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0761/1 SWB:cjs

## 2023 SENATE BILL 88

- March 1, 2023 Introduced by Senators JACQUE, CABRAL-GUEVARA, COWLES, STAFSHOLT and STROEBEL, cosponsored by Representatives GOEBEN, GUNDRUM, ARMSTRONG, BEHNKE, BODDEN, BRANDTJEN, BROOKS, DITTRICH, EDMING, MURPHY, PETERSEN, SCHMIDT, TITTL, TUSLER, WICHGERS and RETTINGER. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Elections and Consumer Protection.
- 1 AN ACT *to create* 66.0512 of the statutes; **relating to:** whistleblower protection 2 for municipal clerks who witness and report election fraud or irregularities.

## Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill provides whistleblower protection for municipal clerks who witness and report election fraud or irregularities. Under the bill, no municipal clerk may be discriminated against in regard to employment, including by being discharged, disciplined, or demoted, as a reprisal because the clerk lawfully reported, or is believed to have reported, witnessing what the clerk reasonably believed to be election fraud or irregularities.

## The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

- 3 **SECTION 1.** 66.0512 of the statutes is created to read:
- 4 66.0512 Whistleblower protection for certain disclosures made by
- 5 **municipal clerks.** No municipal clerk may be discharged, disciplined, demoted, or
- 6 otherwise discriminated against in regard to employment, or threatened with any
- 7 such treatment, as a reprisal because the clerk lawfully reported, or is believed to

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have reported, witnessing what the clerk reasonably believed to be election fraud or
irregularities. For purposes of this section, "lawfully reported" means a report of

- 3 information the disclosure of which is not expressly prohibited by state or federal law,
- 4 rule, or regulation.
- $\mathbf{5}$

## (END)