



2025 SENATE BILL 212

April 16, 2025 - Introduced by Senators HABUSH SINYKIN, WALL, ROYS, RATCLIFF, DASSLER-ALFHEIM, HESSELBEIN, KEYESKI, DRAKE and SPREITZER, cosponsored by Representatives ANDRACA, SNODGRASS, JOERS, DESMIDT, RIVERA-WAGNER, BROWN, SHEEHAN, ROE, FITZGERALD, CLANCY, PRADO, SUBECK, SINICKI, MADISON, TENORIO, VINING, ORTIZ-VELEZ, MAYADEV, JOHNSON and MIRESE. Referred to Committee on Licensing, Regulatory Reform, State and Federal Affairs.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 5.64 (2) (am) of the statutes; **relating to:** the form of
2 referendum questions.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, any referendum question submitted to the voters, including to approve or reject a constitutional amendment, must be concise and may not be worded in such a manner as to require a negative vote to approve a proposition or an affirmative vote to disapprove a proposition.

This bill adds the requirement that the referendum question be in plain language. The bill additionally adds the requirement that for a proposed constitutional amendment, the question must clearly indicate whether any part of the constitutional amendment is contained in the statutes as of the date of final passage of the joint resolution directing that the question be submitted to a vote of the people.

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

3 **SECTION 1.** 5.64 (2) (am) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 **5.64 (2) (am)** There shall be a separate ballot when any proposed

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1 constitutional amendment or any other measure or question is submitted to a vote
2 of the people, except as authorized in s. 5.655. The ballot shall give a concise
3 statement of each question in accordance with the act or resolution directing
4 submission in the same form as prescribed by the commission under s. 7.08 (1) (a).
5 The question may not be worded in such a manner as to require a negative vote to
6 approve a proposition or an affirmative vote to disapprove a proposition. The
7 question shall be in plain language. For a proposed constitutional amendment, the
8 question shall clearly indicate whether any part of the constitutional amendment is
9 contained in the statutes in effect as of the date of final passage of the joint
10 resolution directing that the question be submitted to a vote of the people. Unless
11 otherwise expressly provided, this ballot form shall be used at all elections when
12 questions are submitted to a vote of the people.

13 (END)