



2009 SENATE BILL 276

August 26, 2009 – Introduced by Senators KREITLOW, PLALE, TAYLOR and HANSEN, cosponsored by Representatives ROYS, SMITH, KERKMAN, MASON, BERCEAU, POPE-ROBERTS, DANOU, SPANBAUER and BIES. Referred to Committee on Rural Issues, Biofuels, and Information Technology.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 66.0145 of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring governmental
2 bodies of school districts and certain political subdivisions to post meeting
3 notices and minutes on their Web sites.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, under the open meetings law, with certain exceptions, meetings of state and local governmental bodies must be preceded by public notice, must be held in places that are reasonably accessible to the public, and must be open to the public at all times, although such meetings may convene in closed session for the purpose of considering certain matters specified by law.

A public notice of a meeting of a governmental body must contain the time, date, place, and subject matter of the meeting and must be given at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting, although shorter notice, but never less than two hours, may be given under limited circumstances. The notice must be given to news media that have filed a request to receive such a notice and the notice must appear in the governmental body's official newspaper or, if none exists, in a news medium likely to give notice in the area.

Under this bill, a governmental body of a city, village, town, or county (political subdivision), or school district, that has a Web site is required to post a public notice of a meeting that is subject to the open meetings law on that political subdivision's or school district's Web site and also must post any minutes of the meeting that relate to business conducted during an open session of the meeting. The bill also allows a town that could otherwise comply with current law notice requirements by posting

SENATE BILL 276

the notice in at least three places to meet the requirements by posting at the town hall and one other public place if the notice is also posted on the town's Web site. The bill defines "governmental body" to include any formally constituted subunit of the governing body of a political subdivision or school district.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 66.0145 of the statutes is created to read:

2 **66.0145 Posting of public meeting notice, minutes. (1)** In this section:

3 (a) "Governmental body" means the governing body of a political subdivision
4 or school district or any formally constituted subunit of the governing body.

5 (b) "Meeting" has the meaning given in s. 19.82 (2).

6 (c) "Political subdivision" means a city, village, town, or county.

7 (d) "Public notice" means a public notice, as that term is used in s. 19.84, that
8 sets forth the time, date, place, and subject matter of a meeting of a governmental
9 body of the political subdivision or school district.

10 **(2)** If a political subdivision or school district has a Web site, it shall post on its
11 Web site all of the following:

12 (a) The public notice for every meeting of a governmental body of the political
13 subdivision or school district, consistent with the notice requirements in s. 19.84 (3).

14 (b) As soon as possible after the conclusion of the meeting for which the public
15 notice was posted, the minutes that relate to that meeting, but only to the extent that
16 the minutes reflect any business conducted during the open session of the meeting.

17 **(3)** With regard to a town, if the public notice requirements in s. 19.84 (3) may
18 be met by posting the notice in at least 3 public places, the town may comply with
19 such a posting requirement by posting the public notice in 2 places, one of which shall
20 be the town hall, if the town also posts the public notice on its Web site.

