

..Number

061343

..Version

PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE A

..Reference

..Sponsor

ALD. BOHL AND DUDZIK

..Title

Substitute resolution directing the Department of Administration - Intergovernmental Relations Division to seek introduction and passage of state legislation relating to the manner in which the City of Milwaukee's Board of Election Commissioners is selected.

..Analysis

This resolution directs the Intergovernmental Relations Division-Department of Administration to seek introduction and passage of state legislation relating to the manner in which the City of Milwaukee's Board of Election Commissioners ("Board") is selected.

Currently, the Board is composed of 3 Commissioners. The county committees of the 2 political parties receiving the most votes within the City for governor in the last election provide the Mayor with a list of at least 3 names of candidates for each potential Commission member, and the Mayor must select Commission members from persons included in those lists, 2 members from the political party receiving the most votes for governor, and one member from the political party with the second highest number of votes.

The legislation sought would change the composition of the Board to 5 members: 2 members from the political party receiving the most votes for governor, one member from the political party with the second highest number of votes, one member from the League of Women Voters and one member from the Milwaukee Bar Association. Each organization shall provide the Mayor with a list of at least 5 names of candidates for each potential Commission member, and the Mayor shall appoint Commissioners from persons included in those lists and designate one of the members as Chairperson. The legislation sought would also require at least one member to be licensed to practice law in the State of Wisconsin, and amend the selection process, so that the Common Council shall confirm all members.

..Body

Whereas, The City's elections are fundamental to the democracy of the City, and the elections process must be overseen by a body of persons that most accurately and appropriately represents the integrity of the City throughout all elections processes; and

Whereas, The City of Milwaukee's Board of Election Commissioners is entrusted to provide fair and unbiased oversight to the entire elections process, while conforming to applicable state laws and administrative procedures; and

Whereas, The actions undertaken by the City of Milwaukee's Board of Election Commissioners are ultimately the responsibility of the Mayor; however, s. 7.20, Wis. Stats., provides only for the limited discretion of the Mayor in the selection of Commissioners; and

Whereas, A Board composed of 5 members with partisan and non-partisan affiliations and at least one member who is licensed to practice law in the State of Wisconsin will provide the Board with greater oversight ability according to state law; and

Whereas, According to the statute there is no Common Council confirmation of Mayoral appointments, and Common Council confirmation will help to ensure appropriate review and evaluation of Election Commission activities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the Intergovernmental Relations Division-Department of Administration is directed to seek introduction and passage of state legislation relating to the manner in which the City of Milwaukee's Board of Election Commissioners is selected, so that the Board shall be composed of 5 members: 2 members from the political party receiving the most votes within the City for governor in the last election, one member from the political party with the second highest number of votes, one member from the League of Women Voters and one member from the Milwaukee Bar Association; and each organization shall provide the Mayor with a list of at least 5 names of candidates for each potential Commission member; and the Mayor shall appoint Commissioners from persons included in those lists and designate one of the members as Chairperson; and, be it

Further Resolved, That at least one Commissioner shall be licensed to practice law in the State of Wisconsin; and, be it

Further Resolved, That all nominations shall be confirmed by the Common Council; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the City Clerk shall forward a certified copy of this resolution to members representing Milwaukee in the State Assembly and Senate.

..Requestor

..Drafter
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LCS
2/27/07