

Labor

AB 81 (SB 49) – Civil Service Positions in Milwaukee

Rep. Sinicki

Summary of Bill:

The City of Milwaukee is required to have a civil service commission under state law. This commission oversees civil service testing and keeps a list of eligible civil service candidates to fill vacancies within the system. Whenever a vacancy occurs that will not be filled by reinstatement, promotion, or reduction; the commission fills vacant positions through open competitive examination. The commission must submit a list of the three highest scoring candidates for union positions or the top five candidates for management level positions, plus a list of the highest scoring veterans or spouses of veterans, whose grade is equal to or higher than the lowest grade of non-veteran candidates. If there are more individuals with identical scores, tie-breaking criteria may be used including seniority, current standing in classified service, experience rating, length of city residency, or date of application.

Assembly Bill 81 (Senate Bill 49) removes the number of candidate requirements for the submitted list. The Civil Service Commission may certify to the appointing authorities any number of eligible candidates ranked highest on the list, based on rules established by the commission. Also, it requires that any number of persons who have the same testing score must be included on the same list that is submitted. The procedure for veterans remains unchanged and the number of veterans' candidates must be equal to the number of candidates on the submitted list.

Fiscal Effect:

Indeterminate. However, OSER states that the increased flexibility in certification could potentially reduce hiring costs for the city by making failed recruitments less likely, but does not have data available to estimate any possible reduction in costs.

Supporters Message:

- Deserving job seekers who have scored well on exams have been unfairly and arbitrarily excluded from consideration because their scores were identical to others.
- The new system will be fairer since the commission cannot show preference in cases of equal candidates.
- Gives the commission discretion to certify any number of eligible candidates ranked high on the list.

Opponents Message:

- None

Key Supporters:

Representative Christine Sinicki (author); Senator Lena Taylor (author); City of Milwaukee

Key Opponents:

No one testified or registered against AB 81, and no one registered against it with the GAB.

Committee Vote:

On April 14, 2009, the Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs recommended the passage of SB 49 on a vote of 4-1 [Sen. Grothman voted No]. On April 23, the Senate passed the bill on a voice vote.

On April 16, 2009, the Assembly Committee on Labor recommended passage of AB 81 on a vote of 8-0-1. [Soletski absent]

Ranking Member Author of Bill Summary

Jason Vick; Office of Rep. Mark Honadel (6-0610)