

Wisconsin Towns Association 2017-18 Legislative Session Summary

Below please find a summary of the legislative changes from the 2017-18 legislative session that directly impact town government. These summaries are brief and cursory overviews. If you desire a more detailed description, please feel free to call or email. Additionally, we have provided a detailed review of Act 67, which is available on our website.

Alcohol Licenses and Requirements

2017 Wisconsin Act 17: Tax Policy and Alcohol Changes

The Act made a minor change to liquor laws by clarifying the definition of “restaurant” to mean “any place where meals are prepared or served or sold to transients or the general public even if it is not the predominant activity at the location”.

2017 Wisconsin Act 289: Signatures on Liquor License Application

This Act changes the signature requirements for liquor license applications by only requiring one signature per application and removing the requirement for it to be sworn or notarized. Forms for appointing corporate agents similarly can only require one signature and do not need to be sworn or notarized. If someone knowingly provides materially false information on an application they can be fined up to \$1,000. The same rules will apply to cigarette and tobacco licenses.

Elections

2017 Wisconsin Act 120: Election Recount Changes

Restricts when a candidate can request a recount. In an election where 4,000 or fewer votes are cast for the office, the losing candidate can only request a recount if they trail by less than 40 votes. For an election with more than 4,000 votes the losing candidate can trail by no more than one percent.

2017 Wisconsin Act 326: Local Officials as Election Workers

The Act clarifies that local elected officials are allowed to serve as election officials if they are not on the ballot.

Fire/EMS and Public Safety

2017 Wisconsin Act 12: Technical Changes to EMS Definitions

This Act modifies statutory terminology in regards to emergency medical personnel to bring internal consistency to Wisconsin statutes and external consistency with federal terminology.

2017 Wisconsin Act 59: Budget Bill--Length of Service Award Program

The length of service award program (LOSAP) is a benefit program that municipalities utilize for their volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel. Both the municipality and the state pay into an account for the volunteer, and after certain conditions are met, the account can start paying out to the volunteer. The budget changed the state contribution formula and the vesting requirements. The state will now provide a match equal to twice the amount of all town contributions to the account (formerly 1:1 match), up to \$390 per year. Additionally, volunteers now partially vest after 15 years of service (was originally 20), and after the age of 53. To get the full benefits of the LOSAP program, the volunteer will need at least 15 years of service and reach the age of 60. Volunteers who partially vest will not receive the same award as those who reach the full vesting requirements.

2017 Wisconsin Act 66: Community Para-Medicine Certification

Creates a procedure for ambulance providers and paramedics to receive certification as Community Emergency Medical Services. This allows the EMS personnel to provide non-emergency services to a person outside of the hospital setting.

2017 Wisconsin Act 97: Ambulance Service Upgrade Flexibility

Allows a rural ambulance service provider to upgrade its service level to the highest level of any emergency medical services practitioner staffing an ambulance for the provider if the service's medical director approves. The provider may still only advertise the level of service it is able to provide 24 hours per day.

2017 Wisconsin Act 184: Placement of Violent Sexual Offenders

This legislation fixed an issue where judges ordered violent sexual offenders to live in counties where they did not originally reside. The legislation mandates that persons labeled as sexually violent persons must return to the county where they originally resided once placed on extended supervision. It is then up to a committee created by the county to find a location for the person to live.

2017 Wisconsin Act 350: EMS Licensure

Requires first responders, emergency medical technicians, and ambulance service providers to renew their certifications or licenses every three years instead of every two.

Intergovernmental Relations

2017 Wisconsin Act 59: Budget Bill--Joint Municipal Commissions

The budget bill made a clarification as it relates to joint municipal commissions. If a municipality is required to create a commission or agency to carry out a municipal responsibility, and enters into an intergovernmental agreement with another municipality to create one of those entities, that will satisfy statutory requirements to provide the service. In other words, cooperating with other governments to establish a required commission/department to provide a required service satisfies the municipality's obligations. This is not a law change necessarily, but a clarification under the statutes.

2017 Wisconsin Act 115: Drainage District Bill

This Act revised the legal framework for drainage districts. Although drainage districts are separate government entities, this legislation affected their relationship with towns. This Act changed the process for transferring drainage operations to a municipality. An agreement must be in place between the district and municipality outlining ongoing responsibilities for maintenance and repair of district infrastructure. The district can still perform work if the municipality fails to do so. The Act also prohibits a drainage district from expanding within a town without town approval if the town is permitted by the DNR for storm water management.

2017 Wisconsin Act 233: Sanitary District Membership

For sanitary districts composed of primarily summer resort property, none of the commissioners are required to be residents, but all commissioners must own property within the district under this change. Prior to this bill, these types of commissions had to have at least one resident.

Levy Limits, Assessments, and Local Government Finance

2017 Wisconsin Act 15: TIF Technical Changes

This Act makes several changes to Tax Increment Financing (TIF) laws. It excludes town owned property from the base value of the TIF. It adds costs to promote mixed-use development to the list of eligible project costs for mixed use TIFs. It also limits the penalty for late reports on the status of a TIF to \$6,000. The Act also makes minor technical changes with deadlines and fees.

Act 59: Budget Bill--Finances

Partial Repeal of Personal Property Tax:

The budget bill added another class of property that is exempt from the personal property tax, that being machinery, tools, and patterns. The bill defines machinery as "a structure or assemblage of parts that transmits force, motion, or energy from one part to another in a predetermined way by electrical, mechanical, or chemical means. "Machinery" does not include a

building.” This partial repeal will have a slight impact on levy limits for municipalities with this type of equipment. Typically creating a property tax exemption would mean a tax shift to other property owners since the total amount of taxes collected stays the same. The budget bill prevents this shift by providing payments to municipalities and factoring the payment into the levy limit formula. Starting in 2019 the state will provide payment for the lost revenue based on the amount of property that was subject to the tax in 2017. Municipalities that collected taxes on “machinery, tools, and patterns” in the past will want to know this number and keep it on file in case it is needed in the future because that number will be used in subsequent years to determine the payment owed to the municipality.

Covered Service Definition:

Towns can impose special charges for services rendered to property under Wis. Stat. § 66.0627. These special charges go directly on the tax bill after a town has rendered a service to real property. The statutes induce a levy limit penalty for the use of some special charges for a “covered service”. The budget bill amended the definition of “covered service”, specifically as it relates to fire protection. It states a covered service “does not include the production, storage, transmission, sale and delivery, or furnishing of water for public fire protection purposes.” In other words, towns could impose special charges for the production, storage, transmission, sale and delivery, or furnishing of water for fire protection purposes and not receive a levy penalty.

Purpose Statement in Levy Referendum:

Currently towns may increase their levy if the board approves a resolution to increase the levy and the electors approve the resolution at a referendum. The resolution and ballot question must include the proposed amount of the increase and whether the increase is for the next fiscal year or an ongoing basis. The budget bill added another requirement for the resolution that a purpose statement must be included. It is also important to note this law change does not affect towns increasing their levies using a town elector meeting. A purpose statement would not be required in that circumstance.

2017 Wisconsin Act 68: Board of Review Changes

This Act codified Wisconsin Supreme Court law that impacted the tax assessment review process by allowing someone to challenge their property assessment even if they deny an interior viewing of the property. This Act also requires assessors to provide a specific written notice to property owners of their rights to refuse an interior inspection of their property.

2017 Wisconsin Act 69: Well Loan Program/Special Charges-Assessments

Authorizes municipalities to remediate contaminated wells, fill and seal contaminated wells subject to abandonment, or rehabilitate, replace, or abandon private on-site wastewater treatment systems, with the agreement of the owner of the well or system. The Act also authorizes municipalities to make loans at or below market rates to owners for these purposes, and recover costs of the loan with special charges.

2017 Wisconsin Act 78: Certificate of Deposit Maturity Date

Municipalities are allowed to invest unused funds in a time deposit in a bank or credit union. Previously those funds had to mature within three years. This act eliminated the three year requirement so now investments do not need to mature within a certain time period.

2017 Wisconsin Act 137: Lead Water Pipe Replacement

Authorizes a municipality to make a loan to a property owner for purposes of assisting the property owner in replacing the portion of a lead-containing water service line. Under this arrangement, the loan is obtained from a private lender, but is paid to the municipality and forwarded to the lender. The municipality may collect repayments in installments as a special charge on the property tax bill.

2017 Wisconsin Act 189: BID Financial Report Requirement Changes

Requires the board of a business improvement district that has a cash balance of less than \$300,000 at all times during the prior fiscal year to include a reviewed financial statement in its public annual report instead of an independent certified audit.

2017 Wisconsin Act 223: Increases Levy Limit Upon Subtraction of TIF Territory

This allows for a municipality that has created a Tax Increment Financing district to increase its levy limit when land is subtracted from the district. The Bill creates a formula that the DOR will use to determine how much additional levy capacity the municipality will have.

2017 Wisconsin Act 292: Town of Cable TID

Provides the Town of Cable special authority to create a Tax Increment Financing district.

2017 Wisconsin Act 317: Municipal Fees Imposed and Levy Limits

The act requires property owners be given notice, and specifically electronic notice if an email address is provided, before any fee or special charge can be imposed related to weeds, electronic waste, or property maintenance. This Act also alters the levy limit formula. Previously, if a town

placed a special charge on the tax bill for fire protection, garbage collection, snow plowing, street sweeping, or storm water management, it had to reduce its levy by the charged amount if any of its levy paid for the service prior to 2013. This Act changes that negative adjustment to only subtract from the levy amounts spent in 2013 in providing the covered service. This means a fire protection charge, for example, can be increased without a negative levy limit adjustment if the town spends more on that service than in 2013. For example, if the town spent \$10,000 of its levy to pay for fire service in 2013 it must subtract \$10,000 from its levy if using a special charge for fire service. Anything above that \$10,000 will no longer be subtracted from the overall levy if using a special charge. So even if the town issues a special charge for \$15,000, the negative adjustment will only be \$10,000.

2017 Wisconsin Act 358: Assessment Freeze for Replacement Properties

This was a technical change that brought Wisconsin statutes in uniformity with court made law. The court found municipalities that used an assessment freeze for replacement properties bought after condemnation violated the uniformity of taxation clause of the Wisconsin Constitution. This bill now prohibits assessment freezes for replacement properties.

Public Notice Requirements

2017 Wisconsin Act 282: Definition of Newspaper

This act changes the definition of a “newspaper” and when newspapers can be used for publishing legal notices. A newspaper is now defined as a publication that is published at regular intervals and at least once a week. Further, it must contain, on average, 25 percent news content per issue, including reports of happenings of recent occurrence of a varied character, such as political, social, moral, and religious subjects, designed to inform the general reader. Towns must use newspapers that have been published regularly and continuously in 2 of the last 5 years. If no newspaper qualifies, towns may use a newspaper that is published regularly and likely to give notice.

2017 Wisconsin Act 353: Class 2 and 3 Legal Notice Changes

Allows a town to publish a summary, instead of the all required text, for second and third insertions of class 2 and 3 notices if the summary indicates where the full text can be viewed.

Transportation and Right-of-Way Changes

2017 Wisconsin Act 59 (state budget): Transportation Funding/Implements of Husbandry Transportation Funding:

The state budget provided towns with a \$187 per mile increase in general transportation aids

(GTA), the largest in the last ten years combined. The GTA rate per mile increased from \$2,202 to \$2,389. The Local Road Improvement Program saw an increase of roughly \$1.3 million over the biennium. Local bridge aid increased by \$10,000,000 per year.

Implements of Husbandry Made Permanent:

Several years ago the legislature enacted the Implements of Husbandry (IOH) law, which allows certain agricultural vehicles to operate at heavier weight limits. Implements of Husbandry can operate at a maximum gross weight of 92,000 pounds, and a per axle weight of 23,000 pounds. Towns have several options for permitting IOH vehicles that want to exceed weight limits. When the law was first passed, it had a sunset date of January 1, 2020. The budget repealed the sunset date, which in turn made the IOH law permanent, meaning the current system will remain in place.

2017 Wisconsin Act 68: Propane Tanker Weight Limits

The Act creates a weight limit exception from class B highways and seasonal/special weight limits for vehicles carrying propane if the gross weight of the vehicle does not exceed 30,000 pounds for a vehicle with a single rear axle, or 40,000 pounds for a vehicle with tandem rear axles. If the vehicle is a tank vehicle, the tank cannot be loaded to more than 50% percent capacity.

2017 Wisconsin Act 85: Idle Reducing Technology and Natural Gas Technology Weight Limit Exemption

Vehicles equipped with idle reduction technology may now exceed weight limits by 550 pounds under this law change. The Act also creates a weight allowance of up to 2,000 pounds for vehicles with a natural gas fuel system or an amount equal to the difference between the combined weight of the natural gas tank and fueling system and the weight of a comparable diesel fuel tank and fueling system, whichever is less.

2017 Wisconsin Act 87: Allowing ATVs on Non-Maintaining Authority Highways

This Act allows a city, village, or town to enact an ordinance authorizing all-terrain vehicles on highways that have a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less and are located within the municipality's territory regardless of whether the municipality has jurisdiction over the highway. This does not apply for a highway that is part of the national system of interstate and defense highways.

2017 Wisconsin Act 193: ATV Route Signage

This legislation clarified how frequently towns need to sign ATV routes. If all town roads are open to ATVs, the town can post signs at all entrances to the municipality. If some roads are open, towns can implement this option with a disclaimer on the entrance signs that all roads are open unless otherwise marked. A town would then have to mark the town roads that are not open. Another option is to just sign all roads that are ATV routes. The signs would need to be placed where the route begins and at every intersection of an ATV trail (e.g., coming out of the woods) or a road that is not an ATV route. The final signing option is to post signs every ½ mile of the route. This option is useful for urban towns that have frequent intersections and don't want to post at every intersection with a road that is not an ATV route.

2017 Wisconsin Act 228: Animal Drawn Lighting Requirement

Act 228 requires a person using an animal-drawn vehicle to attach rear flashing yellow or amber strobe lights. The lights must be illuminated during inclement weather and hours of darkness.

2017 Wisconsin Act 232: Municipal Welcome Signs in the Right-of-Way

This Act allows municipalities to erect welcome signs in the right-of-way of any street or highway within its borders. They may not erect signs within the right-of-way of a highway designated as part of the national system of interstate and defense highways.

2017 Wisconsin Act 286: Parking Enforcement

Under this law, a local government may enact an ordinance providing for the immobilization (a car boot) or towing, impoundment, and disposal of vehicles owned by habitual parking violators. A habitual parking offender is the owner of a vehicle who the local government has issued tickets to for five or more parking violations that occurred more than 60 days previously and for which the owner has neither paid each ticket nor scheduled any court appearances. The municipality must have also mailed to the last known address of the person at least one notice that provides information about paying the ticket or contesting it. The owner of the vehicle may secure its release by paying any fee associated with the municipality's action and paying all unpaid tickets, or scheduling court appearances for outstanding tickets. If the owner of the vehicle has not taken any action after a reasonable amount of time, the municipality may dispose of the vehicle.

Zoning, Land-Use, and Building Review

2017 Wisconsin Act 59 (budget bill): Condemnation and Short-Term Rentals

Changes to Condemnation Awards:

Towns have the power to condemn, or take, property for public purposes after providing just

compensation to the owner under the 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and generally under Chapter 32 of the Wisconsin statutes. The local government and the owner do not always agree on what “just compensation” is. In an oversimplification of the process, when the two parties do not agree the property owner sues the municipality and tries to get more money for the property taken. Under current law, the municipality makes a “jurisdictional offer”, which is essentially a statement from the municipality saying it will pay the property owner a specified amount of compensation for the property. Prior to the budget passing, if a property owner sued, and was awarded compensation by the court in an amount at least \$700 more than the jurisdictional offer, the municipality would have to pay the property owner’s attorney fees. The budget amended this formula. Now the jurisdictional offer can be no less than \$2,700 of the court’s determination. Additionally, that number will be tied to inflation. Every year it will go up or down depending on the Consumer Price Index. Accurate appraisals and fair offers to the property owners are still required. This change, however, gives towns more breathing room for their jurisdictional offer.

Condemnation for Bike/Recreational Trails:

The statutes now prohibit a municipality from using its condemnation authority for establishing or extending “a recreational trail; a bicycle way...or a pedestrian way”. This means if the municipality wants to acquire property for one of these purposes, it must do so by mutual agreement with the property owner because the town cannot use its condemnation authority to take property for these purposes.

Short-Term Rentals:

The budget created a framework for the state and municipalities on how to treat short term lodging rentals. First, towns may not enact an ordinance that prohibits the rental of residential dwellings for seven consecutive days or longer. If a town has an ordinance in place that prohibits short term rentals of residential dwellings for 7 or more consecutive days, it will no longer apply. The town can pass an ordinance requiring registration of rental properties if a person rents out their property for more than 10 nights a year. Further, if someone rents their property for more than six, but fewer than 29 consecutive nights, the town can put a cap on the amount of nights a property can be rented. The town can limit short term rentals to 180 total days in a year, but no less. Second, the budget bill also clarified that room tax is applicable to these rentals. If the town collects the room tax from a short-term lodging marketplace entity, such as Airbnb, then it cannot also collect room tax from the property owner. The town may only collect the room tax from the property owner if the lodging marketplace does not forward room tax revenue to the town. The budget bill does put language in the statutes that grants flexibility to local

governments as it relates to short-term rentals and allows a town to pass an ordinance that is not inconsistent with the new language regarding short-term rentals.

2017 Wisconsin Act 67: Homeowner Bill of Rights #1

(Please see a more in-depth summary on our website)

This Act was coined by the authors as the Homeowner Bill of Rights and impacts several areas of local land-use regulations. First, it created a statutory framework for conditional use permits (CUP). The Act requires CUP conditions and ordinance requirements to be reasonable, and to the extent practicable, measurable. If an applicant for a CUP demonstrates with substantial evidence they will meet all ordinance requirements and permit conditions the town must grant them a permit. Any denial of a CUP requires the local government to support that decision with substantial evidence. CUP applications must receive a public hearing. Public testimony at the hearing can be used to deny a permit application, but the testimony must be based on facts and information related to the application, and cannot be merely personal preference or speculation. The Act also reformed local regulations of non-conforming structures by prohibiting limits on rebuilding a non-conforming structure as well as limits for rebuilding of the structure based on cost. The act also codified court made law regarding variances. Further, the Act preempted certain regulations of substandard lots by prohibiting conveyance limitations on substandard lots. A substandard lot is one that originally met minimum lot size requirements, but no longer does. A local government may not prohibit development of a substandard lot if the lot has never been developed and the development will comply with all other ordinances of the municipality. Additionally substandard lots cannot automatically be merged through a local ordinance unless the owner agrees.

2017 Wisconsin Act 68: Homeowner Bill of Rights #2

This Act clarifies that if someone needs multiple approvals for a project within the same municipality, all regulations freeze at the time the application for the first approval is submitted if the full scope of the project is identified in the application.

2017 Wisconsin Act 109: Trailer Park UDC Requirements

Specifies that the owner of a manufactured home, not the trailer park operator, is responsible for complying with applicable uniform dwelling code requirements.

2017 Wisconsin Act 134: Removal of Non-Ferrous Metallic Mining Moratorium

Prior to this law change, Wisconsin had what many referred to as a “moratorium” on non-ferrous metallic mining (gold, silver, copper, etc., but not iron). This bill removed these requirements

and, consequently, the “moratorium”. Importantly, this law change did not affect local regulatory authority over non-ferrous metallic mining. Zoning, licensing, and local agreements are allowed for local governments wishing to regulate. However, this authority is not unlimited, as the state heavily regulates these types of mines already. This means some types of local regulations could be preempted. The WTA has developed a Best Management Practices guide for towns and a sample licensing ordinance. These documents are available on the WTA website.

2017 Wisconsin Act 198: Relating to Building and Plumbing Plan Review and Variances by Towns for Public Buildings

Allows the Department of Safety and Professional Services to appoint certain municipalities to approve construction, alteration, and plumbing plans for public buildings and places of employment. Currently only certain cities can be certified. This expands the ability of DSPS to delegate review authority.

2017 Wisconsin Act 240: Combine Building Inspector Review Board and Contractor Certification Council into UDC Council

Eliminates the building inspector review board and the contractor certification council. The responsibilities of those respective boards transfer to the UDC Council. The UDC Council will review complaints regarding the inspection of one-family or two-family dwelling construction.

2017 Wisconsin Act 242: Conforming Floodplain Ordinances to FEMA Maps

This Act creates a mechanism for property owners to take their property out of a local floodplain zoning designation. If a property owner gets a letter of map amendment from the Federal Emergency Management Agency regarding the property’s floodplain designation, the local government may not enforce a floodplain zoning ordinance with respect to that property if it is inconsistent with the letter of map amendment.

2017 Wisconsin Act 243: Developer Bill

This Act is an omnibus bill with several implications for local governments. It makes changes to how local governments compensate property owners when using condemnation. The Act requires local governments to use generally accepted appraisal methods in determining value, which includes the cost and income approach. Further, it modified the types of additional costs that local governments must pay to displaced property owners in order to re-establish a reasonably comparable business and increased the statutory caps on those costs. The bill also creates an additional levy limit increase of \$1,000 for every new single-family dwelling built within the town that is on a parcel of no more than one acre and sold in the preceding year for

not more than 80 percent of the median price for a residential home in the previous year. This levy increase can only be put towards protective services. Additionally, the Act makes several changes for impact fees by creating different methods of paying impact fees and when the full amount of impact fees are due. It also lowers the time limit in which impact fees must be spent to 8 years, with the exception of sewage treatment facilities and lift stations, which still have ten years with the possibility of an additional 3 year extension in some circumstances. Furthermore, the Act prohibits a municipality from establishing additional storm and surface water charges for a property if certain water retention conditions are met. Another change allows a developer to get a state inspector to approve a zoning or building permit if the developer makes an inspection request and the municipality does not perform it within 14 business days. The act prohibits a municipality from regulating construction site fences except if the regulation is related to the public health or safety. In regards to construction projects, a municipality may not prohibit Saturday work on a construction project related to residential or commercial real estate development or impose regulations on these projects that are more restrictive than those implemented during the weekday. For subdivision developments, this Act creates a procedure for establishing the amount of bonding necessary to secure the project. It requires the town or developer to provide an estimate, if both sides provide estimates and they are not within 10 percent of each other, the two sides must come to an agreement. If the estimates are within 10 percent of each other, the municipality's estimate is controlling for security requirement purposes. Lastly, the Act creates an exception to storm water ordinances regulating flooding for developments that retain a certain percentage of the water on-site.

2017 Wisconsin Act 317: Historic Landmarks and Rental Property Inspection

The Act allows owners of historic landmarks to use materials similar in design, color, scale, architectural appearance and other visual qualities for repairs and restorations of those properties. The Act also impacts how municipalities conduct inspections of rental properties by creating a framework that limits when inspections can be done if there have been no violations or complaints.

2017 Wisconsin Act 330: Commercial Building Code Uniformity

This Act requires the Department of Safety and Professional Services to create rules that establish uniform procedures for municipalities to administer the state commercial building code, and prohibits a municipality from passing an ordinance in conflict with those rules.

Miscellaneous Law Changes

2017 Wisconsin Act 3: Project Labor Agreements

This law change prohibits municipalities from requiring an agreement with a labor organization as part of a public contract. The local government cannot consider whether the bidder has a labor agreement as part of the bidding process.

2017 Wisconsin Act 52: Municipal Treasurer Bonding

This modified the bonding requirement for the town treasurer. Unless the town has an ordinance exempting the municipal treasurer from the bonding requirement and making the town liable, the treasurer must execute and deliver a bond which promises to cover all county and state taxes apportioned to the town that are required to be paid to the county treasurer. This eliminated the caps previously in place.

Act 59: Budget Bill—Miscellaneous Items

Soda Licenses:

Prior to passage of the budget, towns could issue licenses for the sale of “soda water beverages”. The statutes define this as “beverages commonly known as soft drinks or soda water, whether carbonated, uncarbonated, sweetened or flavored. This term does not include alcohol beverages.” Wis. Stat. § 97.34. The town could only charge up to \$5 per license. The budget eliminated this type of license. Thus towns can no longer require a soda license.

Managed Forest Law:

The budget permanently moved closed acreage fees received under the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program to local governments. The state will no longer receive a portion of the MFL fees. A hold harmless provision was extended for an additional year, meaning towns that saw more money under the old MFL system will see a decrease in revenue next year. Overall this is a \$14 million increase in revenue for MFL towns per biennium.

Broadband Funding:

The budget increased the amount available for broadband expansion grants available through the state. Created an additional \$35.5 million in grants this biennium, which includes \$22.5 for TEACH grants.

2017 Wisconsin Act 65: Sale of Surplus Items to Government Employees

This Act created an exception to the prohibition for municipalities selling any item to an employee. Sales to employees will not be prohibited if the sale is of a surplus or discarded item that is no longer needed and if the item is available for sale to the public using a publicly available method, or the item is regularly available from the governmental entity for sale to the public at the same cost. The municipality could choose to enact an ordinance that prohibits all sales to employees.

2017 Wisconsin Act 112: Local Officials Receiving Value from WEDC and Department of Tourism

This Act creates a limited ethics law exception for local officials allowing them to receive items of value from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation or the Department of Tourism in circumstances involving the promotion of trade or Wisconsin businesses.

2017 Wisconsin Act 167: Bidding Requirement for Donated Project

Act 167 creates an exception to the bidding rules if a private person constructs the project and then donates it to the local government after completing construction.

2017 Wisconsin Act 248: Israel Boycott

This legislation prohibits a town from enacting a rule, ordinance, policy, or procedure that involves it in a boycott of Israel or a person doing business in Israel.

2017 Wisconsin Act 327: Limiting Local Government Employment Ordinances

Prohibits local governments from enacting stricter ordinances than state standards with regards to various employee rules. Local governments cannot establish minimum wages for businesses within their jurisdiction, cannot create benefit mandates for businesses, establish overtime rules, restrict the employer's right to solicit salary history of potential employees, or enact occupational licensing requirements stricter than state law.

2017 Wisconsin Act 342: Telecommuter Forward! Certification

Under this Act, a municipality may apply with the Public Service Commission to become a Telecommuter Forward! Community. The Commission will approve applications and certifications for municipalities if the municipality adopts a resolution that states the municipality's support and commitment to promote telecommuting options and provides a single point of contact for coordinating telecommuting opportunities. The point of contact will have several responsibilities related to collaborating with stakeholders and providing reports.

2017 Wisconsin Act 360: Updating Municipal Boundary Information Twice per Year
Prior to this Act, the State would reconcile municipal boundary data every 10 years. This changes the reconciliation to twice every year.