

DATE: September 5, 2019
TO: Legislative Colleagues
FROM: Rep. Don Vruwink
RE: Co-sponsorship of LRB-3579/1, relating to popular election of members of technical college district boards.

DEADLINE: Thursday, September 19, 2019, 5 pm

This bill provides for election of Technical College Boards rather than appointment. I am introducing this bill at the request of a constituent who believes appointed Technical College Boards amount to taxation without representation.

To co-sponsor, please respond to this email or call my office at 266-3790 by 5 pm on Tuesday, September 10.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, the Technical College System is managed on the local level by district boards consisting of nine members in each of the state's 16 technical college districts. The members of the technical college district board for each district are appointed for three-year terms by an appointment committee consisting of certain local elected officials in accordance with a representation plan based upon population distribution within the district. All members of a district board must be residents of the district and, for the district board for the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), seven members must be residents of Milwaukee County. Except for the MATC district board, the district boards consist of the following members: two employers, two employees, one school district administrator, one elected official, and three additional members. The MATC district board consists of the following members: five employers that satisfy specified criteria, one school district administrator, one elected official, and two additional members.

This bill provides for the election of all members of district boards by the electors within each technical college district on a nonpartisan ballot at the spring election. Each member must be an elector of the election district from which he or she is elected. Terms are changed from three to four years. Under the bill, current district board members serve until July 1, 2021, at which time district board members who are elected at the 2021 spring election take office. The terms of the members are staggered so that no more than three seats are up for reelection at one time.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.