



# NEW LAWS

## 2017 WISCONSIN ACT 9

Senate Bill 62

Effective Date: June 3, 2017

### **SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY TO VOLUNTARILY REFUSE SALARY**

Under this new law, a school board member may decline his/her salary by sending written notification to the school district clerk and the school district treasurer that the school board member wishes to refuse to accept the salary that he or she is otherwise entitled to receive. For purposes of such refusal, the term “salary” means the annual salary for a school board member or the amount for each school board meeting the school board member actually attends. (*Editor’s Note: Members of the board of school directors in Milwaukee submit the notification to the clerk and city treasurer.*)

The notification must be provided by specific statutory deadlines, and the notification is irrevocable for the period of time specified in the statutes (generally through the end of a particular taxable year). The notification deadlines are as follows:

1. For an individual who is elected or appointed to the school board, the school board member shall send the written notification no later than the day on which the board member takes the official oath of office and before the board member performs any services in his or her capacity as a board member. As to any such notification that immediately follows election or appointment:
  - a. If the school board member’s current taxable year does not end within 3 months of the day on which the board member's election is certified or the board member is appointed to the board, then the notification applies only to the taxable year in which the school board member's election is certified. (*Editor’s Note: This procedure will apply, for example, to new board members who are elected in April.*)
  - b. If the school board member's current taxable year ends within 3 months of the day on which the board member's election is certified or the board member is appointed to the board, then the notification applies until the end of his or her next taxable year.
2. For a board member who is continuing his or her term of office, the board member may initiate refusal of his or her salary for the next taxable year, or renew an existing refusal for the next taxable year, by sending the written notification at least 30 days before the start of the school board member’s next taxable year. Such notification of refusal applies only to that next taxable year.

If the clerk and treasurer receive a notification of refusal, the treasurer may not pay the school board member the salary that he or she is otherwise entitled to receive during the time period to which the notification applies.

*Notes: The full text of this Act can be found at: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/acts/9>.*