



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2013 Senate Bill 160

Senate Substitute Amendment 1

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2013 Senate Bill 160 modifies reporting requirements for domestic abuse incidents and requires the establishment of domestic abuse training standards for law enforcement officers.

Senate Bill 160

Under current law, a law enforcement officer is generally required to arrest a person if the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the person has committed domestic abuse and the person's actions constitute the commission of a crime. If the officer does not arrest a person under these circumstances, the officer is required to prepare a report stating why the person was not arrested. The report is then reviewed by the district attorney, who must determine whether to charge the person. The district attorney must prepare a report for submission to the Department of Justice (DOJ) listing the number of arrests for domestic abuse crimes and the number of convictions resulting from these arrests.

2013 Senate Bill 160 requires a law enforcement officer to prepare a report if that officer does not make an arrest because that officer did not believe reasonable grounds exist that the person committed a domestic abuse crime. The report shall state why no such reasonable grounds exist. The bill also requires the district attorney to report to DOJ the number of instances in which law enforcement responds to an instance involving domestic abuse that did not result in an arrest.

The bill requires the Law Enforcement Standards Board to establish standards for the training of law enforcement officers in addressing domestic abuse incidents.

Senate Substitute Amendment 1

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 replaces the above with a requirement that the Department of Administration shall maintain and provide to DOJ a case management system

that allows district attorneys to manage and share case-related information. It further provides that DOJ shall make a list of domestic abuse services organizations available to law enforcement agencies and provides for the sharing of information with such agencies.

Bill History

On February 5, 2014, Senator Petrowski offered Senate Substitute Amendment 1. On February 20, 2014, the Senate Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs recommended adoption of Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0. On the same day, the committee also recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

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