

☞ **97hr_AC-CoFa_ab0451_pt01**



(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

1997-98

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Corrections Facilities (AC-CoFa)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Mike Barman (LRB) (May/2012)





JUDITH B. ROBSON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

DATE: October 22, 1997
TO: Assembly Committee on Corrections Facilities
FROM: Representative Judy Robson
RE: Assembly Bill 451 Testimony

Thank you for scheduling Assembly Bill 451 for a hearing today.

This legislation is quite straightforward. The Department of Corrections will not be able to authorize placements of convicted child sex offenders within 500 feet of any public, private, or parochial elementary, middle, junior, or senior high school.

Child sex offenses that will trigger this prohibition are:

- sexual contact or sexual intercourse with a child, under age 18, who suffers from a mental illness or deficiency,
- sexual contact or sexual intercourse with a child under age 13;
- therapist-client sexual contact with a child under age 18;
- three or more instances of sexual contact or sexual intercourse with the same child who is under age 16;
- sexual exploitation;
- incest; and
- enticement.

The need for this legislation was evidenced last August in Beloit. Unbeknownst to our community, a man convicted of molesting children had been paroled to a halfway house next door to an elementary school.

Page 2 - AB 451

The man had a 25 year history of deviant sexual behavior. According to newspaper reports, he had pleaded guilty in 1987 to one count of sexual assault just before he was to go on trial on six counts of sexual assault and six counts of child enticement.

His placement next to an elementary school became known after he was arrested for violating parole. He had been paroled earlier in 1990 and was arrested after police received reports of a man matching the parolee's description hanging around elementary school playgrounds. His parole was then revoked when officials discovered he had applied for an ice cream vendor permit although he had been ordered not to have contact with children.

We have laws regulating the placement of some businesses adjacent to schools because we recognize the need to provide a safe and healthy environment for children. AB 451 will extend this protection.

The Fiscal Note prepared by the Department of Corrections indicates that the department currently denies any housing requests that would place a convicted sex offender within 500 feet of a school. I am pleased they have adopted this policy. This legislation will affirm what is understood and accepted by the department and the public.

Your support to favorably report this bill out of committee will be appreciated.