

Vote Record

Senate - Committee on Human Services and Aging

Date: 3/4/00
Moved by: ROSENZWEIG Seconded by: ROESSLER
Clearinghouse Rule: _____
Appointment: _____
Other: _____
AB: _____ SB: _____
AJR: _____ SJR: _____
AR: _____ SR: _____
A/S Amdt: a 1405 to SB 339
A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____
A/S Sub Amdt: _____
A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____
A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage
- Introduction
- Adoption
- Rejection

- Indefinite Postponement
- Tabling
- Concurrence
- Nonconcurrence
- Confirmation

Committee Member

Sen. Judy Robson, Chair
Sen. Gwendolynne Moore
Sen. Robert Wirch
Sen. Carol Roessler
Sen. Peggy Rosenzweig

	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Sen. Judy Robson, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gwendolynne Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Robert Wirch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Carol Roessler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Peggy Rosenzweig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Vote Record

Senate - Committee on Human Services and Aging

Date: 3/4/00
Moved by: Moore Seconded by: Rosen
Clearinghouse Rule: _____
Appointment: _____
Other: _____
AB: _____ SB: 339
AJR: _____ SJR: _____
AR: _____ SR: _____

A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____
A/S Sub Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____
A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____

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Committee Member

- Sen. Judy Robson, Chair
- Sen. Gwendolynne Moore
- Sen. Robert Wirch
- Sen. Carol Roessler
- Sen. Peggy Rosenzweig

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Sen. Judy Robson, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gwendolynne Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Robert Wirch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Carol Roessler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Peggy Rosenzweig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: _____

SB 339 - passage as amended



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
Joe Llean, Secretary

February 25, 2000

The Honorable Robert Wirch
Wisconsin State Senate
Capitol Building, 310 South
Madison, WI 53707-7882

The Honorable Jeff Stone
Wisconsin State Assembly
Capitol Building, 306 North
Madison, WI 53708-8953

RE: SB 339 and AB 688

Dear Senator Wirch and Representative Stone:

I have attached to this cover an amendment to your legislation for your consideration. This is being done at the request of the Department of Corrections. In short, LRB 1405 will allow for the exchange of information with law enforcement agencies and schools. This change will make the proposed ss. 48.78 (3)(b) and 938.78 (4)(b) under the legislation parallel to the exchange of information under existing statutes ss. 48.78 (2)(b) and 938.78 (2)(b)(1). This will not weaken the confidentiality protections for foster parent records: both law enforcement and schools are statutorily mandated to keep any information received confidential. This amendment will allow the Division of Juvenile Corrections to continue to meet the needs of juveniles in protective services without fearing that sharing information about the juvenile may contain information also contained in a foster parent record.

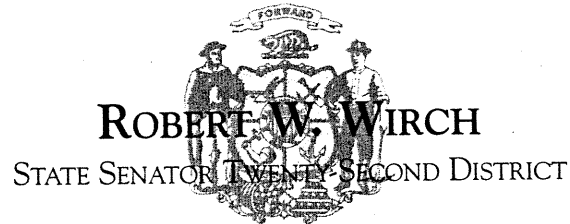
Sincerely,

Kevin Lewis
Legislative Liaison

attachment

cc: Senator Judy Robson
Representative Carol Owens

Bob Margolies, Department of Corrections



Testimony before the Senate Committee on Human Services and Aging
by
Senator Robert Wirch
Senate Bill 339
February 10, 2000

In order to protect children placed in the foster care system, licensing agencies obtain as much information about potential foster families as they can. Potential foster families are asked very personal questions about their familial relationships, religious practices, disciplinary techniques, mental health issues and other related information. Agencies must ask these tough questions in order to ensure the foster child will be safe from abuse.

Senate Bill 339 seeks to protect the confidentiality of this personal information. In return for this information, Wisconsin should provide a guarantee in our laws that the information can be safeguarded and kept from public distribution. If potential foster parents are unsure whether the licensing agency can maintain this information in confidence, they may be reluctant to be as open with the agency as is necessary to protect foster children.

Although current law protects the confidentiality of the records of foster children, the law is silent on the protection of the substitute care parents' records. SB 339 prohibits the licensing agency from making available for inspection or disclosing the contents of any record kept or any information received relating to a foster parent without

first receiving the written permission of the foster parent. The only exception will be if a court order has been granted, or unless it is under the guidelines of a child abuse and neglect investigation.

The provisions of SB 339 will not apply to the confidential exchange of information between an agency and another social welfare agency or prevent disclosure of the child's location to the child's parent or legal guardian.

This legislation comes at the request of the Department of Health and Family Services, who you will hear testimony from, and is supported by the Wisconsin Federation of Foster Parent Organizations. I hope the Committee will also favorably consider SB 339.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions.