



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 104 [2003 Assembly Bill 71]	Threats to Release or Disseminate Harmful Substances
2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/	Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

2003 Wisconsin Act 104 creates a crime under which whoever, knowing the threat to be false, intentionally threatens to release or disseminate a harmful substance is guilty of a Class I felony if the threat induces a reasonable expectation or fear that the person will release or disseminate a harmful substance. "Harmful substance" is defined as radioactive material that is harmful to human life; a toxic chemical that through its chemical action on life processes can cause death, temporary incapacitation, or permanent harm to humans, or its precursor; or a biological agent that is capable of causing death, disease, or other biological malfunction in humans.

Under the Act, if a defendant is convicted under the above provision, the court may assess the costs incurred by a state or local government agency for the response to the threat by emergency medical personnel, the analysis of any substance alleged to be a harmful substance, and the medical treatment of persons who are alleged to have been exposed to an alleged harmful substance against the defendant.

Effective Date: December 30, 2003.

Prepared by: Anne Sappenfield, Senior Staff Attorney

January 7, 2004

AS:rv;tlu

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.