



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2015 Assembly Bill 657

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 2**

Memo published: February 15, 2016 *Contact:* Jessica Karls-Ruplinger, Deputy Director (266-2230)

CURRENT LAW

Under current law, the Department of Justice (DOJ) makes grants to counties to enable them to establish and operate programs, including suspended and deferred prosecution programs and programs based on principles of restorative justice, that provide alternatives to prosecution and incarceration for criminal offenders who abuse alcohol or other drugs.

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 657

Assembly Bill 657 increases a DOJ appropriation for the grant program. Under the bill, the appropriation is increased by \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2015-16 and \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2016-17.

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 2

Assembly Substitute Amendment 2 retains the increased appropriation for the grant program in the amount of \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2016-17, but does not include the increased appropriation for fiscal year 2015-16. However, the substitute amendment transfers the \$2,000,000 from a Department of Health Services (DHS) appropriation, relating to institutional operations and charges, to a newly created DOJ appropriation.

In addition, the substitute amendment creates additional eligibility requirements for counties to participate in the grant program. The county's program may not prohibit a person from beginning or continuing participation in the program because he or she uses a medication that is approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of his or her substance use disorder. The county's program must allow a participant to use a medication that is approved by the FDA if all of the following are true:

- A licensed health care provider, acting in the scope of his or her practice, has examined the person and determined that the person's use of the medication is an appropriate treatment for the person's substance use disorder.
- The medication was appropriately prescribed by a person authorized to prescribe medication in the state.
- The person is using the medication as prescribed as part of treatment for a diagnosed substance use disorder.

BILL HISTORY

On February 3, 2016, Representative Nygren offered Assembly Substitute Amendment 2. On February 4, 2016, the Joint Committee on Finance recommended adoption of Assembly Substitute Amendment 2 and passage of Assembly Bill 657, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 16; Noes, 0.

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