



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2019 Wisconsin Act 1
[2019 Senate Bill 19]

**Administrative Code References
to Intellectual Disabilities**

2019 Wisconsin Act 1 deletes any phrase similar to the phrase “mental retardation,” “mentally retarded,” and other similar phrases throughout the state’s administrative code. The act replaces these phrases with the term “intellectual disability.” Phrases replaced with the term “intellectual disability” are located in administrative code provisions promulgated by the Department of Health Services (DHS), the Department of Children and Families, the Public Service Commission, the Department of Safety and Professional Services, and the Department of Workforce Development.

The act also amends the definition of “intellectual disability” that is used in the administrative code promulgated by DHS for purposes of the Community Options Program and Medical Assistance (MA) home and community-based services waiver. Prior to the act, this definition was based upon the person’s intelligence quotient (IQ) level. The act amended the term to instead mean, “subaverage general intellectual functioning that originates during the developmental period and is associated with the impairment in adaptive behavior.”

Effective date: May 2, 2019

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This memo provides a brief description of the act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.