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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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December 17, 2019

### 2019 Wisconsin Act 57 [2019 Senate Bill 155]

### Volunteer Health Care Provider Services for Homeless Individuals Receiving Medicaid Assistance

The Volunteer Health Care Provider Program was created in 1990 to encourage health professionals to serve as volunteers for nonprofit agencies providing health care services. A person in a specified health care profession may submit a joint application, together with a participating school or nonprofit agency, to participate in the program. Participating volunteer health care providers are considered agents of the state for limited purposes. As such, they are entitled to representation by the Wisconsin attorney general's office in legal proceedings arising from their volunteer services. In addition, certain notice requirements and liability limitations apply in the event that a volunteer health care provider is sued.

**Prior law** prohibited a nonprofit agency participating in the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program from providing health care services to people receiving assistance through Wisconsin's Medicaid program.

**2019 Wisconsin Act 57** creates an exception to that general prohibition that applies when an individual receiving services is primarily homeless.

**Effective date:** November 27, 2019

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