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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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**2019 Wisconsin Act 134**  
[2019 Assembly Bill 502]

**Transferring Authority to  
Represent the Interests of the  
Public in CHIPS Proceedings**

### BACKGROUND

State law provides that a county may transfer authority to represent the public interest in a child in need of protection or services (CHIPS) proceeding to or from the district attorney. Under prior law, a county could only transfer this authority to or from the district attorney if the transfer was effective on **September 1 of an odd-numbered year** and the county notified the Department of Administration (DOA) of the transfer by January 1 of the same odd-numbered year.

### 2019 WISCONSIN ACT 134

2019 Wisconsin Act 134 eliminates the requirement that a county may only transfer authority to represent the public interest in a CHIPS proceeding to or from a district attorney if the transfer takes effect on September 1 of an odd-numbered year. Instead, the act provides that the county may transfer this authority to take effect on **any given day during any given year**, but only if the county notifies DOA of the change no later than January 1 of the calendar year in which the change takes effect.

**Effective date:** March 5, 2020

MS:RB:mca;ksm