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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

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**2019 Senate Bill 344**

**Senate Amendment 1**

### 2019 SENATE BILL 344

The bill requires that the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) establish a family navigator program within its Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide outreach, support, training, and other services to certain individuals who receive federal supplemental security income. Under the bill, DWD must employ family navigators in each local workforce development area of the state, except Milwaukee, where the department is required to employ two family navigators.

To be qualified to be hired as a family navigator, a person must meet a number of qualifications, including the following:

- Personal experience as a person with a disability or severe disability or with a family member who is a person with a disability or severe disability;
- Knowledge regarding the challenges and barriers that affect the ability of eligible individuals to attain educational goals, employability, and economic self-sufficiency.
- Knowledge of the communities in the local workforce development area to which he or she is assigned.
- Demonstrated cultural competency.
- Knowledge of programs and resources that may be available to individuals in this state, including services provided by a county, medical assistance, vocational rehabilitation services, employment training, coordinated services, Wisconsin Works, Wisconsin Shares, heating assistance, and housing assistance.

### SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 removes the requirement that DWD's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation establish the family navigator program.

The amendment also removes the requirement that a family navigator have "personal experience as a person with a disability or severe disability or with a family member who is a person with a disability or severe disability." Instead, the amendment modifies the family navigator qualifications to require that a person have knowledge regarding the challenges and barriers that affect the ability of eligible individuals and "individuals with disabilities or severe disabilities" to attain educational goals, employability, and economic self-sufficiency.

Lastly, the amendment removes a provision that provides that the bill takes effect on the day after publication, or on the 2nd day after publication of the 2019 biennial budget act, whichever is later.

## **BILL HISTORY**

Senator Testin offered Senate Amendment 1 on August 29, 2019. On September 10, 2019, the Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business, Tourism and Workforce Development voted to adopt the amendment, and recommend the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

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