



State of Wisconsin  
2011 - 2012 LEGISLATURE



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**ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 8,  
TO 2011 SENATE BILL 306**

March 15, 2012 – Offered by Representative SINICKI.

1 At the locations indicated, amend the bill as follows:

2 **1.** Page 1, line 4: after “abortion,” insert “voluntary and informed consent for  
3 vasectomy.”

4 **2.** Page 3, line 1: before that line insert:

5 “**SECTION 1g.** 146.39 of the statutes is created to read:

6 **146.39 Voluntary and informed consent; vasectomy.** (1) DEFINITIONS. In  
7 this section:

8 (a) “Qualified person assisting the physician” means a social worker certified  
9 under ch. 457, a registered nurse, or a physician assistant to whom a physician who  
10 is to perform a vasectomy has delegated the responsibility, as the physician’s agent,  
11 for providing the information required under sub. (2) (c) 2.

12 (b) “Qualified physician” means a physician who by training or experience is  
13 qualified to provide the information required under sub. (2) (c) 1.

1           **(2) VOLUNTARY AND INFORMED CONSENT.** (a) *Generally.* Vasectomies may not be  
2 performed unless the man who is to receive the vasectomy has given voluntary and  
3 informed written consent under the requirements of this section.

4           (b) *Voluntary consent.* Consent under this section to a vasectomy is voluntary  
5 only if the consent is given freely and without coercion by any person. The physician  
6 who is to perform the vasectomy shall determine whether the individual's consent  
7 is, in fact, voluntary. Notwithstanding par. (c) 3., the physician shall make the  
8 determination by speaking to the individual in person, out of the presence of anyone  
9 other than a person working for or with the physician. If the physician has reason  
10 to suspect that the individual is in danger of being physically harmed by anyone who  
11 is coercing the individual to consent to a vasectomy against his will, the physician  
12 shall inform the individual of services for victims or individuals at risk of domestic  
13 abuse and provide him with private access to a telephone.

14           (c) *Informed consent.* An individual's consent to receive a vasectomy is  
15 informed only if all of the following first take place:

16           1. At least 24 hours before the vasectomy is performed, the physician who  
17 performs the vasectomy or any other qualified physician has, in person, orally  
18 informed the individual of all of the following:

19           a. Whether or not, according to the reasonable medical judgment of the  
20 physician, the individual is a candidate for a vasectomy.

21           b. The probable condition of the man's body and sexual organs at the time that  
22 the information is provided. The physician or other qualified physician shall also  
23 provide this information to the individual in writing at this time.

24           c. The particular medical risks, if any, associated with the man's sexual  
25 condition.

1           d. The probable anatomical and physiological characteristics of the man's  
2 sexual organs.

3           e. The details of the medical method that would be used to perform the  
4 vasectomy.

5           f. The medical risks associated with the particular method of vasectomy that  
6 would be used.

7           g. The recommended general medical instructions for the individual to follow  
8 after a vasectomy to enhance his safe recovery and the name and telephone number  
9 of a physician to call if complications arise after receiving a vasectomy.

10          h. That the individual has a right to refuse to consent to a vasectomy, that his  
11 consent is not voluntary if anyone is coercing him to consent to having a vasectomy  
12 against his will, and that it is unlawful for the physician to perform a vasectomy  
13 without his voluntary consent.

14          i. That the individual may withdraw his consent to a vasectomy at any point  
15 before the vasectomy is performed.

16          j. That the individual is not required to pay any amount for a vasectomy until  
17 at least 24 hours have elapsed after the requirements of this paragraph are met.

18          k. That the man must return to the facility for a follow-up visit 12 to 18 days  
19 after a vasectomy to confirm the efficacy of the procedure and evaluate the man's  
20 medical condition.

21          2. At least 24 hours before performing a vasectomy, the physician who is to  
22 perform the vasectomy, a qualified person assisting the physician, or another  
23 qualified physician has, in person, done all of the following:

24           a. Orally informed the man that he has the right to receive and review the  
25 printed materials described in par. (d). The physician or qualified person assisting

1 the physician shall physically give the materials to the individual and shall, in  
2 person, orally inform him that the materials are free of charge and have been  
3 provided by the state and shall provide him with the current updated copies of the  
4 printed materials free of charge.

5 b. Orally informed the man that the printed materials described in par. (d)  
6 contain information on services available for victims or individuals at risk of  
7 domestic abuse.

8 c. Orally informed the man that the printed materials described in par. (d)  
9 contain information on the availability of public and private agencies and services  
10 to provide the individual with information on vasectomies.

11 3. The information that is required under subds. 1. and 2. is provided to the  
12 individual in an individual setting that protects his privacy, maintains the  
13 confidentiality of his decision, and ensures that the information he receives focuses  
14 on his individual circumstances. This subdivision may not be construed to prevent  
15 the individual from having a family member, or any other person of his choice,  
16 present during his private counseling.

17 4. Whoever provides the information that is required under subd. 1. or 2., or  
18 both, provides adequate opportunity for the man to ask questions and provides the  
19 information that is requested or indicates to the man where he can obtain the  
20 information.

21 5. The individual certifies in writing on a form that the department shall  
22 provide, prior to the vasectomy, that the information that is required under subds.  
23 1. and 2. has been provided to him in the manner specified in subd. 3., that he has  
24 been offered the information described in par. (d), and that all of his questions, as  
25 specified under subd. 4., have been answered in a satisfactory manner. The

1 physician who is to perform the vasectomy or the qualified person assisting the  
2 physician shall write on the certification form the name of the physician who is to  
3 perform the vasectomy. The individual shall indicate on the certification form who  
4 provided the information to him or her and when it was provided.

5 6. Prior to performing the vasectomy, the physician who is to perform the  
6 vasectomy or the qualified person assisting the physician receives the written  
7 certification that is required under subd. 5. The physician or qualified person  
8 assisting the physician shall place the certification in the individual's medical record  
9 and shall provide the individual with a copy of the certification.

10 7. If the individual considering a vasectomy is a minor, the requirements to  
11 provide information to the minor under subds. 1. to 6. apply also to require provision  
12 of the information to the individual whose consent is required. If the individual  
13 considering a vasectomy is an individual adjudicated incompetent in this state, the  
14 requirements to provide information to the individual under subds. 1. to 6. apply to  
15 also require provision of the information to the person appointed as the individual's  
16 guardian.

17 (d) *Printed information.* By the date that is 60 days after May 1, 2012, the  
18 department shall cause to be published in English, Spanish, and other languages  
19 spoken by a significant number of state residents, as determined by the department,  
20 materials that are in an easily comprehensible format and are printed in type of not  
21 less than 12-point size. The department shall distribute a reasonably adequate  
22 number of the materials to county departments under s. 46.215, 46.22, or 46.23 and,  
23 upon request, shall annually review the materials for accuracy and shall exercise  
24 reasonable diligence in providing materials that are accurate and current. The  
25 materials shall be all of the following:

1           1. Geographically indexed materials that are designed to inform an individual  
2 about public and private agencies and services that are available to provide  
3 information on vasectomies and provide imaging services. The materials shall  
4 include a comprehensive list of the agencies available, a description of the services  
5 that they offer, and a description of the manner in which they may be contacted,  
6 including telephone numbers and addresses, or, at the option of the department, the  
7 materials shall include a toll-free, 24-hour telephone number that may be called to  
8 obtain an oral listing of available agencies and services in the locality of the caller  
9 and a description of the services that the agencies offer and the manner in which they  
10 may be contacted. The materials shall provide information on the availability of  
11 governmentally funded programs that serve individuals seeking a vasectomy.  
12 Services identified for the individual shall include Medical Assistance. The  
13 materials shall state that it is unlawful to perform a vasectomy for which consent has  
14 been coerced and that any physician who performs a vasectomy without obtaining  
15 the individual's voluntary and informed consent is liable to him for damages in a civil  
16 action and is subject to a civil penalty. The materials shall state that imaging  
17 services may be obtainable by individuals who wish to use them and shall describe  
18 the services. The materials shall include information on services in the state that  
19 are available for victims or individuals at risk of domestic abuse.

20           2. Materials, including photographs, pictures, or drawings, that are designed  
21 to show vasectomies. The pictures, drawings, and videos must be realistic and  
22 appropriate for the method of vasectomy depicted. The materials shall be objective,  
23 nonjudgmental and designed to convey only accurate scientific information about  
24 vasectomies. The materials shall also contain objective, accurate information

1 describing the methods of vasectomy commonly employed, and the medical and  
2 psychological risks commonly associated with each such procedure.

3 3. A certification form for use under par. (c) 5. that lists, in a check-off format,  
4 all of the information required to be provided under par. (c) 5.

5 (e) *Requirement to obtain materials.* A physician who intends to perform  
6 vasectomies or another qualified physician, who reasonably believes that he or she  
7 might have a patient for whom the information under par. (d) is required to be given,  
8 shall request a reasonably adequate number of the materials that are described  
9 under par. (d) from the department under par. (d) or from a county department under  
10 s. 46.215, 46.22, or 46.23.

11 (f) *Presumptions.* Satisfaction of the conditions required under par. (c) creates  
12 a rebuttable presumption that the individual's consent and, if the individual is a  
13 minor, the consent of the individual who also gives consent, to a vasectomy is  
14 informed. The presumption of informed consent may be overcome by a  
15 preponderance of evidence that establishes that the consent was obtained through  
16 fraud, negligence, deception, misrepresentation or omission of a material fact. There  
17 is no presumption that consent to a vasectomy is voluntary.

18 **(3) PENALTY.** Any person who violates sub. (2) shall be required to forfeit not  
19 less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000. No penalty may be assessed against the  
20 man upon whom a vasectomy is performed or attempted to be performed.

21 **(4) CIVIL REMEDIES.** (a) A person who violates sub. (2) is liable to the man on  
22 whom the vasectomy is performed or attempted to be performed for damages arising  
23 out of the performance of the vasectomy, including damages for personal injury and  
24 emotional and psychological distress.

1 (b) A conviction under sub. (3) is not a condition precedent to bringing an action,  
2 obtaining a judgment, or collecting the judgment under this subsection.

3 (c) Notwithstanding s. 814.04 (1), a person who recovers damages under par.  
4 (a) may also recover reasonable attorney fees incurred in connection with the action.

5 (d) A contract is not a defense to an action under this subsection.

6 (e) Nothing in this subsection limits the common law rights of a person that are  
7 not in conflict with sub. (2).

8 **(5) AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE.** No person is liable under sub. (3) or (4) or under s.  
9 441.07 (1) (f), 448.02 (3) (a), or 457.26 (2) (gm) for failure under sub. (2) (c) 2. to provide  
10 the printed materials described in sub. (2) (d) to an individual or for failure under  
11 sub. (2) (c) 2. to describe the contents of the printed materials if the person has made  
12 a reasonably diligent effort to obtain the printed materials under sub. (2) (e) and the  
13 department and the county department under s. 46.215, 46.22, or 46.23 have not  
14 made the printed materials available at the time that the person is required to give  
15 them to the individual.”.

16 **3.** Page 3, line 1: delete “**SECTION 1**” and substitute “**SECTION 1r**”.

17 **4.** Page 9, line 23: after that line insert:

18 “**SECTION 10k.** 441.07 (1) (f) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 441.07 (1) (f) A violation of the requirements of s. 146.39 (2) (c) 2., 3., 4., 5., 6.,  
20 or 7. or 253.10 (3) (c) 2., 3., 4., 5., 6. or 7.

21 **SECTION 10n.** 448.02 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 448.02 (3) (a) The board shall investigate allegations of unprofessional conduct  
23 and negligence in treatment by persons holding a license, certificate or limited  
24 permit granted by the board. An allegation that a physician has violated s. 146.39



1     (2), 253.10 (3), 448.30 or 450.13 (2) or has failed to mail or present a medical  
2     certification required under s. 69.18 (2) within 21 days after the pronouncement of  
3     death of the person who is the subject of the required certificate or that a physician  
4     has failed at least 6 times within a 6-month period to mail or present a medical  
5     certificate required under s. 69.18 (2) within 6 days after the pronouncement of death  
6     of the person who is the subject of the required certificate is an allegation of  
7     unprofessional conduct. Information contained in reports filed with the board under  
8     s. 49.45 (2) (a) 12r., 50.36 (3) (b), 609.17 or 632.715, or under 42 CFR 1001.2005, shall  
9     be investigated by the board. Information contained in a report filed with the board  
10    under s. 655.045 (1), as created by 1985 Wisconsin Act 29, which is not a finding of  
11    negligence or in a report filed with the board under s. 50.36 (3) (c) may, within the  
12    discretion of the board, be used as the basis of an investigation of a person named in  
13    the report. The board may require a person holding a license, certificate or limited  
14    permit to undergo and may consider the results of one or more physical, mental or  
15    professional competency examinations if the board believes that the results of any  
16    such examinations may be useful to the board in conducting its investigation.

17           **SECTION 10p.** 457.26 (2) (gm) of the statutes is amended to read:

18           457.26 (2) (gm) Violated the requirements of s. 146.39 (2) (c) 2., 3., 4., 5., 6., or  
19           7. or 253.10 (3) (c) 2., 3., 4., 5., 6. or 7."

20   **(END)**