



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2001 Assembly Bill 488

Senate Amendment 1

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GRANTS TO SECOND-CHANCE HOMES

2001 Assembly Bill 488 creates a grant program for private agencies to operate second-chance homes. Under the bill, second-chance homes are group homes that are authorized solely to provide a safe and structured living arrangement for children 12 years old or older who are custodial parents or expectant mothers. The homes must provide those children with training in parenting skills, including child development, family budgeting, health and nutrition, and other skills to promote the long-term economic independence of those children and the well-being of the children of those children.

The Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) is required to award the grants on a competitive basis and according to request-for-proposal procedures that DHFS must prescribe in consultation with the Department of Workforce Development, the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Pregnancy Services Board, local health departments, and other providers of services to young women who are mothers or expectant mothers and who are low income and are in need of a safe and structured living arrangement.

The bill does not appropriate any money for the grant program.

Under **Senate Amendment 1**, the request-for-proposal procedures must include a requirement that a private agency's grant application include proof that the private agency has the cultural competency to provide services under the grant to persons and families in the various cultures in the private agency's target population and that cultural competency is incorporated in the private agency's policies, administration, and practices. The amendment defines "cultural competency" as the ability of an individual or private agency to understand and act respectfully toward, in a cultural context, the beliefs, interpersonal styles, attitudes, and behaviors of persons and families of various cultures, including persons and families of various cultures who participate in services from the individual or private agency and persons of various cultures who provide services for the individual or private agency.

The amendment also clarifies the mechanism for funding the grant program so that if general purpose revenue is appropriated for these grants, the funding may be counted towards the state's maintenance-of-effort requirement under the Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program.

GROUNDINGS FOR JUVENILE COURT JURISDICTION

Current law lists the grounds under which the juvenile court (i.e., the court authorized to exercise jurisdiction under the Children's Code and the Juvenile Justice Code) may take jurisdiction over a child as a child in need of protection or services (CHIPS). **The bill** creates two new CHIPS grounds. The first is that the child is at least 12 years of age, is a custodial parent or an expectant mother, is receiving inadequate care, and is in need of a safe and structured living arrangement which the child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian is unwilling, neglecting, unable or needs assistance to provide. Under the second new ground, the juvenile court would have jurisdiction over the children of any child found to be CHIPS under the first new ground.

The amendment deletes the new CHIPS grounds and provisions related to the creation of the new grounds. However, a child may still be placed in a second-chance home as a CHIPS disposition if she is found to be CHIPS under an existing CHIPS ground (e.g., she is found to have been abused or neglected or to be in need of special treatment or care).

The Senate Committee on Human Services and Aging unanimously recommended adoption of Senate Amendment 1 and passage of the bill, as amended.

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