



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2015 Assembly Bill 51	Assembly Amendments 1 and 2
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Assembly Bill 51 relates to creating family treatment court and juvenile treatment court grant programs in the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

ASSEMBLY BILL 51

Assembly Bill 51 was introduced by the Joint Legislative Council based upon the recommendation of the 2014 Joint Legislative Council Study Committee on Problem-Solving Courts, Alternatives, and Diversions. The bill creates a DCF grant program for counties to establish and operate family treatment courts for parents whose children are subject to juvenile court jurisdiction due to parental problems related to mental illness or substance abuse. Similarly, the bill creates a DCF grant program for counties to establish and operate juvenile treatment court for juveniles with problems related to mental illness or substance abuse. The grant-funded programs are to develop intake and court procedures that screen, assess, and provide new dispositional alternatives for parents or juveniles subject to the treatment court.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 removes the requirement that the family treatment court and juvenile treatment court programs be specifically for parents or juveniles with problems related to mental illness or substances abuse, allowing the programs to also be utilized by other parents and juveniles.

The amendment also provides that programs must be “evidence-based” to qualify for grants. In addition, the amendment eliminates the requirement that a dispositional alternative created by a county must be **new** in order to qualify for a grant created by the bill.

Next, the amendment eliminates the requirement that DCF **must** make grants available to counties for family treatment court and juvenile treatment court programs, and instead, provides DCF with discretion regarding whether to issue such grants.

Finally, the amendment changes the appropriation account so that the grants will be funded by moneys received from the federal government or its agencies to be expended as local assistance for continuing programs.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2

Assembly Amendment 2 makes Indian tribes eligible to apply for the DCF grant programs and also permits counties and tribes to apply jointly for a grant.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Goyke on January 29, 2016. The Assembly Committee on Corrections recommended adoption of the amendment on February 2, 2016, on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes 1. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0.

Assembly Amendment 2 was offered by Representatives Mursau and Goyke on February 16, 2016. On the same date, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 and passed the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 98; Noes, 0.

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