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## **1997 SENATE BILL 24**

January 22, 1997 - Introduced by Senators Moen, Rude and Buettner, cosponsored by Representatives Meyer, Robson, Plale, Urban, Ryba, Albers, Murat, Black, Gronemus, Brandemuehl, Boyle and Morris-Tatum. Referred to Committee on Health, Human Services, Aging, Corrections, Veterans and Military Affairs.

AN ACT to amend 250.02 (1) of the statutes; relating to: requirements for a state

health officer.

### Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the secretary of the department of health and family services must appoint and may assign duties to a state health officer. No qualifications are required for appointment as the state health officer. The state health officer is required to appoint state epidemiologists for program areas of acute and communicable diseases, occupational and environmental diseases, maternal and child health and chronic diseases and to appoint chief medical officers to provide consultation and leadership to state health programs. (The chief medical officers also serve as state epidemiologists and have those powers designated them by the state health officer to enforce state health laws and advise state and local officials on certain health matters.) In addition, the state health officer is authorized to appoint advisory and examining bodies.

Also, under current law, certain medical education, licensure and experience requirements are specified for local health officers of Level I, II and III local health departments. In all counties of this state except one (Racine County), the local health officer of a Level I local health department must have at least a bachelor's degree from a nursing program that is accredited by certain entities.

This bill requires that the state health officer meet at least the medical educational requirement that is specified for local health officers of Level I local health departments in all counties of the state except Racine County. The bill takes effect on January 1, 1998, or on the first day of the 4th month beginning after this bill becomes law, whichever is earlier.

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For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

# The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

**Section 1.** 250.02 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

250.02 (1) State health officer; duties. The secretary shall appoint a state health officer and, who shall have at least the level of medical education that is required under s. 251.06 (1) (a). The secretary may assign the state health officer such duties of the secretary or department as the secretary provides. The state health officer may appoint such advisory and examining bodies as are needed to carry out the duties of the state health officer and as provided by law. The state health officer shall appoint state epidemiologists for program areas of acute and communicable diseases, occupational and environmental diseases, maternal and child health and chronic diseases. Individuals appointed as state epidemiologists shall have advanced training and expertise in epidemiology in their program areas.

#### SECTION 2. Effective date.

(1) This act takes effect on January 1, 1998, or on the first day of the 4th month beginning after publication, whichever is earlier.

15 (END)