



2011 ASSEMBLY BILL 68

March 30, 2011 - Introduced by Representatives VOS, TURNER and PRIDEMORE, sponsored by Senator WANGGAARD. Referred to Committee on Children and Families.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 48.981 (2) (e) and 48.981 (8) (c); and *to create* 48.981 (2) (a)
2 16m., 48.981 (8) (am) and 118.07 (5) of the statutes; **relating to:** mandatory
3 reporting of child abuse or neglect by school district employees; training in child
4 abuse and neglect identification, laws, and procedures for those employees;
5 retaliation against a person who reports child abuse or neglect in good faith,
6 and granting rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law requires certain persons who have reasonable cause to suspect that a child seen in the course of professional duties has been abused or neglected or who has a reasonable belief that such a child has been threatened with abuse or neglect and that abuse or neglect will occur to report that suspected or threatened abuse or neglect to the county department of human services or social services or to the sheriff or city, village, or town police department. Currently, mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect include school teachers, administrators, and counselors. This bill makes *all* public school employees mandatory child abuse and neglect reporters and requires those employees to receive training in identifying children who have been abused or neglected and in the laws and procedures governing the reporting of child abuse and neglect.

Current law prohibits any person who makes a child abuse or neglect report from being discharged from employment for doing so. This bill prohibits any person

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who makes a child abuse or neglect report *in good faith* from being discharged from employment, disciplined or otherwise discriminated against in regard to employment, or threatened with any such treatment for doing so.

For further information see the *state and local* 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:

1 **SECTION 1.** 48.981 (2) (a) 16m. of the statutes is created to read:

2 48.981 (2) (a) 16m. A school district employee not otherwise specified in this
3 paragraph.

4 **SECTION 2.** 48.981 (2) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 48.981 (2) (e) No person making a report under this subsection in good faith
6 may be discharged from employment, disciplined or otherwise discriminated against
7 in regard to employment, or threatened with any such treatment for so doing.

8 **SECTION 3.** 48.981 (8) (am) of the statutes is created to read:

9 48.981 (8) (am) Each year the department, every county department, and every
10 licensed child welfare agency under contract with the department in a county having
11 a population of 750,000 or more shall make available training programs that permit
12 school district employees to satisfy the training requirement under s. 118.07 (5).

13 **SECTION 4.** 48.981 (8) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 48.981 (8) (c) In meeting its responsibilities under par. (a), (am), or (b), the
15 department, a county department, or a licensed child welfare agency under contract
16 with the department in a county having a population of ~~500,000~~ 750,000 or more may
17 contract with any public or private organization ~~which~~ that meets the standards set
18 by the department. In entering into the contracts the department, county

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1 department, or licensed child welfare agency shall give priority to parental
2 organizations combating child abuse and neglect or unborn child abuse.

3 **SECTION 5.** 118.07 (5) of the statutes is created to read:

4 118.07 (5) Each school board shall require every employee of the school district
5 governed by the school board to receive training provided under s. 48.981 (8) (am) in
6 identifying children who have been abused or neglected and in the laws and
7 procedures under s. 48.981 governing the reporting of suspected or threatened child
8 abuse and neglect. A school district employee shall receive that training within the
9 first 6 months after commencing employment with the school district and at least
10 once every 5 years after that initial training. The department shall promulgate rules
11 to implement and administer this subsection. The department shall consult with the
12 department of children and families and the child abuse and neglect prevention
13 board in promulgating those rules.

14 **SECTION 6. Nonstatutory provisions.**

15 (1) CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT TRAINING OF SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES; RULES.
16 The department of public instruction shall submit in proposed form the rules
17 required under section 118.07 (5) of the statutes, as created by this act, to the
18 legislative council staff under section 227.15 (1) of the statutes no later than the first
19 day of the 6th month beginning after the effective date of this subsection.

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(END)