

State of Wisconsin



2023 Senate Bill 916

Date of enactment:
Date of publication*:

2023 WISCONSIN ACT

AN ACT *to create* 66.0443 of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring local governments to designate an individual for consultation required under a federal program regarding refugee resettlement and assistance.

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

SECTION 1. 66.0443 of the statutes is created to read:

66.0443 Local consultation for refugee resettlement and assistance. (1) In this section:

(a) "Chief elected official" means the mayor of a city or, if the city is organized under subch. I of ch. 64, the president of the council of that city, the village president of a village, the town board chairperson of a town, the chairperson of the county board of supervisors, or the chairperson of a school board.

(b) "Committee" means a county refugee resettlement committee organized under sub. (5).

(c) "Designee" means a person designated under sub. (4) (b) by a local governmental unit.

(d) "Local governmental unit" means a city, village, town, county, or school district.

(e) "Private nonprofit voluntary agency" means an organization that participates in the federal reception and placement program under a cooperative agreement with the federal department of state to sponsor and provide assistance and support to refugees upon arrival in the United States.

(2) If any employee or officer of a local governmental unit contacts or is contacted by the federal government or a private nonprofit voluntary agency acting under 8 USC 1522 regarding the proposed placement of refugees, as

defined in 8 USC 1101 (a) (42), in the local governmental unit under 8 USC 1522, within 7 business days of the initial contact, the employee or officer shall submit a written report on the contact, including copies of any documentation received, to the chief elected official and clerk of the local governmental unit.

(3) Within 10 business days of receiving a report under sub. (2), a chief elected official shall provide a written notification of the contact to the chief elected official and clerk of each local governmental unit located, entirely or partially, within a 100-mile radius of the office of the clerk for the local governmental unit providing the notice under this subsection.

(4) Within 30 days of receiving notification under sub. (3), the governing body of each local governmental unit receiving notification under sub. (3) shall meet and do all of the following:

(a) Include on the meeting agenda an informational item that the notification under sub. (3) has been received and allow for a public comment on the item.

(b) Designate, by a majority vote of a quorum of the governing body, an employee or officer of the local governmental unit to serve as the representative for the local governmental unit for purposes of consultation with the federal government or a private nonprofit voluntary agency regarding refugee resettlement and assistance as set forth under 8 USC 1522. The clerk of the local gov-

* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication."

ernmental unit shall notify the county board chairperson and clerk for the county in which the local governmental unit is located of the designation under this paragraph.

(5) Not sooner than 30 days, nor later than 45 days, after receiving a notification under sub. (3), upon the call of the county board chairperson, each designee in the county with regard to a report under sub. (2) shall meet to discuss the proposed placement of refugees regarding which the report was made. The county board chairperson shall ensure that representatives of the federal government or private nonprofit voluntary agency involved in the contact under sub. (2) are invited to the meeting. Upon commencement of the meeting under this subsection, the designees constitute a county refugee resettlement committee. The county is responsible for all costs of the committee.

(6) Within 30 days of the initial committee meeting under sub. (5), the committee shall hold a public hearing regarding the proposed placement of refugees regarding which the report under sub. (2) was made. Notice of the hearing shall be given by publishing in a newspaper or newspapers having general circulation within the territory within a 100-mile radius of the office of the clerk for the local governmental unit to whom the report under sub. (2) was made as a class 1 notice, under ch. 985, a summary of the proposal and notice of the place where the proposal, the written report submitted to the chief elected official under sub. (2), and any documentation submitted with the report are available for public inspection, and notice of the time and place for holding the public hearing thereon in the local governmental unit at least

15 days prior to the time of the public hearing. Posting may not be substituted for publication under this subsection. Notice of the hearing shall also be given at least 10 days before the meeting by communication from the committee to those news media who have filed a written request for notice of all meetings of any local governmental unit that received a notification under sub. (3), and to the official newspaper designated under ss. 985.04, 985.05, and 985.06 of any local governmental unit that received a notification under sub. (3) or, if none exists, to a news medium likely to give notice in the area.

(7) Once a public hearing has been held under sub. (6), the committee shall make a recommendation to the governing body of the local governmental unit on whether the body should pass a resolution regarding its position on the proposed refugee placement.

(8) The committee shall provide each designee with guidance on all considerations that should be included as part of the consultation under 8 USC 1522, including consideration of potential impacts on the local agencies and the timeline related to any placement of refugees with regard to which the report under sub. (2) was made. Designees shall communicate all considerations provided by the committee to the relevant parties involved in consultation under 8 USC 1522.

(9) Once a plan relating to the proposed refugee placement under this section has been established after consultation under 8 USC 1522, each designee shall submit within 7 business days a written report on the plan to the local governmental unit for which the designee is a representative.