



## 2001 SENATE BILL 80

March 8, 2001 - Introduced by Senators GROBSCHMIDT, ROSENZWEIG, BURKE, ROESSLER, M. MEYER, HUELSMAN, SCHULTZ, DARLING, HARS DORF and LAZICH, cosponsored by Representatives RHOADES, BOCK, HUBER, KRUG, AINSWORTH, PLOUFF, MILLER, OLSEN, TURNER, J. LEHMAN, URBAN, RILEY, WASSERMAN, KESTELL, KRAWCZYK, LIPPERT, HUEBSCH, VRAKAS, WADE, HUNDERTMARK, MUSSER, GUNDERSON, LA FAVE, POWERS, OTT, STONE, OWENS and LADWIG. Referred to Committee on Judiciary, Consumer Affairs, and Campaign Finance Reform.

1     **AN ACT to repeal** 51.15 (1) (a) 5., 51.15 (1) (c), 51.20 (1) (ad) 3., 51.20 (10) (cm)  
2             2., 51.20 (13) (g) 2d. c., 51.30 (4) (b) 14., 165.017 (1), 165.017 (3) and 165.017 (5);  
3     **to renumber and amend** 51.20 (10) (cm) 1.; **to amend** 51.15 (1) (a) (intro.),  
4             51.15 (4) (a), 51.15 (5), 51.20 (1) (a) 2. e., 51.20 (1) (ad) 1., 51.30 (3) (b), 51.30 (4)  
5             (b) 11., 51.61 (1) (g) 3m. and 165.017 (2) of the statutes; and **to affect** 1995  
6             Wisconsin Act 292, section 5, 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 12, 1995  
7             Wisconsin Act 292, section 14, 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 16, 1995  
8             Wisconsin Act 292, section 20, 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 22, 1995  
9             Wisconsin Act 292, section 24, 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 28, 1995  
10            Wisconsin Act 292, section 30, 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 30h, 1995  
11            Wisconsin Act 292, section 32, 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 37 (1), 1997  
12            Wisconsin Act 35, section 141, 1997 Wisconsin Act 35, section 144, 1997  
13            Wisconsin Act 35, section 147 and 1997 Wisconsin Act 35, section 605 (1);  
14     **relating to:** eliminating emergency detention under the fifth standard of

**SENATE BILL 80**

1 dangerousness, eliminating termination of involuntary civil commitments  
2 under the fifth standard of dangerousness, permitting only petitions approved  
3 by the attorney general to be filed for involuntary civil commitment under the  
4 fifth standard of dangerousness, and providing access by the corporation  
5 counsel to court records and treatment records of persons receiving services for  
6 mental illness, developmental disabilities, alcoholism or drug dependence.

---

***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

Under current law, a person who is believed to be mentally ill and a proper subject for treatment and who evidences certain acts, omissions, or other behavior that indicate that he or she satisfies at least one of five standards of dangerousness may be detained on an emergency basis and transported to and detained and treated in a mental health treatment facility. A petition signed by three others may be brought against the detained person alleging that the detained person is mentally ill, is a proper subject for treatment, and is dangerous because he or she meets a standard for involuntary civil commitment. (Emergency detention is not, however, a prerequisite to bringing such a petition; it can be brought against any person.) If such a petition is filed with a court, the subject of the petition must be given a hearing to determine if there is probable cause sufficient to support the petition's allegations. If a court finds probable cause, a final hearing on commitment must be held, and if, again, the person is found to have satisfied one of the standards of dangerousness he or she may be involuntarily committed to the care and custody of a county department of community programs for appropriate treatment.

Currently, one of the five standards of dangerousness for emergency detention and involuntary civil commitment terminates on December 1, 2001. That standard, known as the "fifth standard," requires that a person, because of mental illness, either evidence the incapability of expressing an understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of and alternatives to accepting a particular medication or treatment after these have been explained to him or her, or evidence substantial incapability of applying an understanding of those advantages, disadvantages, and alternatives to his or her mental illness in order to make an informed choice as to whether to accept or refuse medication or treatment. The person must also evidence a substantial probability, as demonstrated by both his or her treatment history and recent acts or omissions, that he or she needs care or treatment to prevent further disability or deterioration. Lastly, the person must evidence a substantial probability that he or she will, if left untreated, lack services necessary for his or her health or safety and suffer mental, emotional, or physical harm that will result in either the loss of his or her ability to function independently in the community or the loss of cognitive or volitional control over his or her thoughts or actions.

**SENATE BILL 80**

Under current law, the attorney general or his or her designee must review an emergency detention that is made under the fifth standard before the detention takes place or within 12 hours after. If the attorney general or designee disapproves or fails to act with respect to the proposed detention, it may not be carried out; if the attorney general or designee disapproves or fails to act with respect to an actual emergency detention, the detained person must be released. The attorney general or designee also must review a petition for involuntary commitment that is based on the fifth standard before the petition is filed with a court or within 12 hours after the filing. If the attorney general or designee disapproves or fails to act with respect to a proposed petition, the petition may not be filed; if the attorney general or designee disapproves or fails to act with respect to a filed petition, the subject of the petition, if he or she has been detained under the petition, must be released and the petition is void. These provisions do not apply if the attorney general or designee makes a finding that a court of competent jurisdiction in this state, in a case challenging the constitutionality of the fifth standard, has upheld the constitutionality.

Currently, the inpatient treatment of a person who is involuntarily committed under the fifth standard may not be more than 30 days, unless the person violates a condition of outpatient treatment. Medication and treatment may be administered to the person without his or her consent if a court finds probable cause to believe that the person meets the fifth standard and if the court finds at the final commitment hearing that the standard is met.

Currently, the files and records of court proceedings for involuntary commitment of individuals are closed except to the individual or to other persons with the individual's informed consent and, without the individual's consent, to the individual's attorney or guardian ad litem in order that the attorney or guardian ad litem may prepare for certain proceedings with respect to the individual. Treatment records of an individual are confidential and may be released without the informed written consent of the individual only to certain persons or under certain circumstances. An individual's counsel or guardian ad litem may have access to the treatment records, without informed consent, at any time, without limitation, in order to prepare for proceedings with respect to the individual; access by the counsel for the interest of the public without informed consent, however, is restricted to those treatment records concerning the admission, detention, or commitment of an individual who is presently admitted, detained, or committed.

This bill eliminates the fifth standard for emergency detention. The bill eliminates also the December 1, 2001, termination of the fifth standard for involuntary civil commitment of persons with mental illness.

The bill eliminates the opportunity for the filing of a petition for involuntary commitment of persons under the fifth standard of dangerousness before review and approval by the attorney general or his or her designee has been obtained; under the bill, no petition for involuntary commitment of an individual under the fifth standard of dangerousness may be filed unless the attorney general or his or her designee has reviewed and approved it.

**SENATE BILL 80**

The bill provides access by the corporation counsel to an individual's files and records of court proceedings and to the individual's treatment records, to the same extent that the individual's attorney or guardian ad litem has the access.

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.** 51.15 (1) (a) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           51.15 (1) (a) (intro.) A law enforcement officer or other person authorized to  
3 take a child into custody under ch. 48 or to take a juvenile into custody under ch. 938  
4 may take an individual into custody if the officer or person has cause to believe that  
5 such the individual is mentally ill ~~or, except as provided in subd. 5.,~~ is drug  
6 dependent, or is developmentally disabled, and that the individual evidences any of  
7 the following:

8           **SECTION 2.** 51.15 (1) (a) 5. of the statutes is repealed.

9           **SECTION 3.** 51.15 (1) (c) of the statutes is repealed.

10          **SECTION 4.** 51.15 (4) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

11          51.15 (4) (a) In counties having a population of 500,000 or more, the law  
12 enforcement officer or other person authorized to take a child into custody under ch.  
13 48 or to take a juvenile into custody under ch. 938 shall sign a statement of  
14 emergency detention which shall provide detailed specific information concerning  
15 the recent overt act, attempt, or threat to act or omission on which the belief under  
16 sub. (1) is based and the names of the persons observing or reporting the recent overt  
17 act, attempt, or threat to act or omission. The law enforcement officer or other person  
18 is not required to designate in the statement whether the subject individual is  
19 mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or drug dependent, but shall allege that he

**SENATE BILL 80**

1 or she has cause to believe that the individual evidences one or more of these  
2 conditions if sub. (1) (a) 1., 2., 3. or 4. is believed or mental illness, if sub. (1) (a) 5.  
3 is believed. The law enforcement officer or other person shall deliver, or cause to be  
4 delivered, the statement to the detention facility upon the delivery of the individual  
5 to it.

6 **SECTION 5.** 51.15 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 51.15 (5) DETENTION PROCEDURE; OTHER COUNTIES. In counties having a  
8 population of less than 500,000, the law enforcement officer or other person  
9 authorized to take a child into custody under ch. 48 or to take a juvenile into custody  
10 under ch. 938 shall sign a statement of emergency detention ~~which~~ that shall provide  
11 detailed specific information concerning the recent overt act, attempt, or threat to  
12 act or omission on which the belief under sub. (1) is based and the names of persons  
13 observing or reporting the recent overt act, attempt, or threat to act or omission. The  
14 law enforcement officer or other person is not required to designate in the statement  
15 whether the subject individual is mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or drug  
16 dependent, but shall allege that he or she has cause to believe that the individual  
17 evidences one or more of these conditions if sub. (1) (a) 1., 2., 3. or 4. is believed or  
18 mental illness, if sub. (1) (a) 5. is believed. The statement of emergency detention  
19 shall be filed by the officer or other person with the detention facility at the time of  
20 admission, and with the court immediately thereafter. The filing of the statement  
21 has the same effect as a petition for commitment under s. 51.20. When, upon the  
22 advice of the treatment staff, the director of a facility specified in sub. (2) determines  
23 that the grounds for detention no longer exist, he or she shall discharge the  
24 individual detained under this section. Unless a hearing is held under s. 51.20 (7)  
25 or 55.06 (11) (b), the subject individual may not be detained by the law enforcement

**SENATE BILL 80****SECTION 5**

1 officer or other person and the facility for more than a total of 72 hours, exclusive of  
2 Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

3 **SECTION 6.** 51.20 (1) (a) 2. e. of the statutes is amended to read:

4 51.20 (1) (a) 2. e. For an individual, other than an individual who is alleged to  
5 be drug dependent or developmentally disabled, after the advantages and  
6 disadvantages of and alternatives to accepting a particular medication or treatment  
7 have been explained to him or her and because of mental illness, evidences either  
8 incapability of expressing an understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of  
9 accepting medication or treatment and the alternatives, or substantial incapability  
10 of applying an understanding of the advantages, disadvantages, and alternatives to  
11 his or her mental illness in order to make an informed choice as to whether to accept  
12 or refuse medication or treatment; and evidences a substantial probability, as  
13 demonstrated by both the individual's treatment history and his or her recent acts  
14 or omissions, that the individual needs care or treatment to prevent further  
15 disability or deterioration and a substantial probability that he or she will, if left  
16 untreated, lack services necessary for his or her health or safety and suffer severe  
17 mental, emotional, or physical harm that will result in the loss of the individual's  
18 ability to function independently in the community or the loss of cognitive or  
19 volitional control over his or her thoughts or actions. The probability of suffering  
20 severe mental, emotional, or physical harm is not substantial under this subd. 2. e.  
21 if reasonable provision for the individual's care or treatment is available in the  
22 community and there is a reasonable probability that the individual will avail  
23 himself or herself of these services or if the individual is appropriate for protective  
24 placement under s. 55.06. Food, shelter, or other care that is provided to an  
25 individual who is substantially incapable of obtaining food, shelter, or other care for

**SENATE BILL 80**

1 himself or herself by any person other than a treatment facility does not constitute  
2 reasonable provision for the individual's care or treatment in the community under  
3 this subd. 2. e. The individual's status as a minor does not automatically establish  
4 a substantial probability of suffering severe mental, emotional, or physical harm  
5 under this subd. 2. e. ~~This subd. 2. e. does not apply after November 30, 2001.~~

6 **SECTION 7.** 51.20 (1) (ad) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

7 51.20 (1) (ad) 1. If a petition under par. (a) is based on par. (a) 2. e., the petition  
8 shall be reviewed and approved by the attorney general or by his or her designee prior  
9 to ~~or within 12 hours after~~ the time that it is filed. If the attorney general or his or  
10 her designee disapproves or fails to act with respect to the petition, the petition may  
11 not be filed. ~~If the attorney general or his or her designee disapproves or fails to act~~  
12 ~~with respect to a petition under this subdivision within 12 hours after the time that~~  
13 ~~it is filed, the individual, if detained under the petition, shall be released and the~~  
14 ~~petition is void.~~

15 **SECTION 8.** 51.20 (1) (ad) 3. of the statutes is repealed.

16 **SECTION 9.** 51.20 (10) (cm) 1. of the statutes is renumbered 51.20 (10) (cm) and  
17 amended to read:

18 51.20 (10) (cm) Prior to or at the final hearing, for individuals for whom a  
19 petition is filed under sub. (1) (a) 2. e., the county department under s. 51.42 or 51.437  
20 shall furnish to the court and the subject individual an initial recommended written  
21 treatment plan that contains the goals of treatment, the type of treatment to be  
22 provided, and the expected providers. The treatment plan shall address the  
23 individual's needs for inpatient care, residential services, community support  
24 services, medication and its monitoring, case management, and other services to  
25 enable the person to live in the community upon release from an inpatient facility.

**SENATE BILL 80****SECTION 9**

1 The treatment plan shall contain information concerning the availability of the  
2 needed services and community treatment providers' acceptance of the individual  
3 into their programs. The treatment plan is only a recommendation and is not subject  
4 to approval or disapproval by the court. Failure to furnish a treatment plan under  
5 this ~~subdivision~~ paragraph does not constitute grounds for dismissal of the petition  
6 unless the failure is made in bad faith.

7 **SECTION 10.** 51.20 (10) (cm) 2. of the statutes is repealed.

8 **SECTION 11.** 51.20 (13) (g) 2d. c. of the statutes is repealed.

9 **SECTION 12.** 51.30 (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 51.30 (3) (b) An individual's attorney or guardian ad litem and the corporation  
11 counsel shall have access to the files and records of the court proceedings under this  
12 chapter without the individual's consent and without modification of the records in  
13 order to prepare for involuntary commitment or recommitment proceedings,  
14 reexaminations, appeals, or other actions relating to detention, admission, or  
15 commitment under this chapter or ch. 971 or 975.

16 **SECTION 13.** 51.30 (4) (b) 11. of the statutes is amended to read:

17 51.30 (4) (b) 11. To the subject individual's counsel or guardian ad litem and  
18 the corporation counsel, without modification, at any time in order to prepare for  
19 involuntary commitment or recommitment proceedings, reexaminations, appeals, or  
20 other actions relating to detention, admission, commitment, or patients' rights under  
21 this chapter or ch. 48, 971, or 975.

22 **SECTION 14.** 51.30 (4) (b) 14. of the statutes is repealed.

23 **SECTION 15.** 51.61 (1) (g) 3m. of the statutes is amended to read:

24 51.61 (1) (g) 3m. Following a final commitment order for a subject individual  
25 who is determined to meet the commitment standard under s. 51.20 (1) (a) 2. e., the



**SENATE BILL 80**

1 court shall issue an order permitting medication or treatment to be administered to  
2 the individual regardless of his or her consent. ~~This subdivision does not apply after~~  
3 ~~November 30, 2001.~~

4 **SECTION 16.** 165.017 (1) of the statutes is repealed.

5 **SECTION 17.** 165.017 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 165.017 (2) The attorney general or his or her designee shall review and  
7 approve or disapprove all proposed petitions ~~or petitions~~ for commitment of  
8 individuals as specified under s. 51.20 (1) (ad) 1.

9 **SECTION 18.** 165.017 (3) of the statutes is repealed.

10 **SECTION 19.** 165.017 (5) of the statutes is repealed.

11 **SECTION 20.** 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 5 is repealed.

12 **SECTION 21.** 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 12 is repealed.

13 **SECTION 22.** 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 14 is repealed.

14 **SECTION 23.** 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 16 is repealed.

15 **SECTION 24.** 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 20 is repealed.

16 **SECTION 25.** 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 22 is repealed.

17 **SECTION 26.** 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 24 is repealed.

18 **SECTION 27.** 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 28 is repealed.

19 **SECTION 28.** 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 30 is repealed.

20 **SECTION 29.** 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 30h is repealed.

21 **SECTION 30.** 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 32 is repealed.

22 **SECTION 31.** 1995 Wisconsin Act 292, section 37 (1) is repealed.

23 **SECTION 32.** 1997 Wisconsin Act 35, section 141 is repealed.

24 **SECTION 33.** 1997 Wisconsin Act 35, section 144 is repealed.

25 **SECTION 34.** 1997 Wisconsin Act 35, section 147 is repealed.

