



State of Wisconsin  
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4024/1  
PJH:emw

## 2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 978

March 10, 2016 – Introduced by Representatives GOYKE, BARNES, BOWEN, BROSTOFF, KESSLER, BERCEAU, JOHNSON, SPREITZER and ZAMARRIPA, cosponsored by Senator L. TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

- 1     **AN ACT to create** 20.455 (5) (dm) and 165.935 of the statutes; **relating to:**  
2             creating a grant program for law enforcement agencies to provide victim and  
3             witness advocacy services and making an appropriation.

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

This bill creates a grant program, administered by the Department of Justice, for law enforcement agencies to provide services to victims of, and witnesses to, crimes from the time a crime is reported until the time a person is charged for the crime.

Under the bill, a law enforcement agency may receive a grant if it submits a plan to the department that includes providing a victim and witness service coordinator on-site at the agency who will ensure, from the time a crime is reported, that victims and witnesses receive the services to which they are entitled. The bill requires a law enforcement agency that receives a grant to provide data on services it provides to victims and witnesses under its plan and requires the department to submit a report on the grant program after five years. The bill terminates the grant program after five years.

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

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

**ASSEMBLY BILL 978****SECTION 1**

1           **SECTION 1.** 20.455 (5) (dm) of the statutes is created to read:

2           20.455 (5) (dm) *Victim and witness services.* A sum sufficient to provide grants  
3 to law enforcement agencies under s. 165.935.

4           **SECTION 2.** 165.935 of the statutes is created to read:

5           **165.935 Victim services. (1)** From the appropriation under s. 20.455 (5)  
6 (dm), the department of justice shall distribute grants to law enforcement agencies  
7 on a competitive basis. A law enforcement agency that receives a grant under this  
8 subsection shall provide on-site services to victims of, and witnesses to, a crime  
9 before a person alleged to have committed the crime is charged for the crime.

10           **(2)** In order to receive a grant under sub. (1), a law enforcement agency shall  
11 submit a plan to the department of justice for the expenditure of the grant moneys  
12 distributed. A law enforcement agency is eligible for a grant if the law enforcement  
13 agency's plan creates the position of a victim and witness services coordinator who  
14 is available at the law enforcement agency and who will ensure that victims and  
15 witnesses receive the rights and services to which they are entitled under ch. 950  
16 from the time a crime is reported until criminal charges are filed against the alleged  
17 perpetrator of the crime.

18           **(3)** A law enforcement agency that receives a grant under sub. (1) shall provide  
19 information to the department of justice regarding the agency's implementation of  
20 the plan, including the number of victims and witnesses who are provided services  
21 and the types of services they receive. The department may request any data  
22 regarding a plan funded under this section that is necessary to evaluate the program  
23 and prepare the reports under subs. (4) and (5).

24           **(4)** The department of justice shall, annually, analyze the data submitted  
25 under sub. (3) for the previous year and prepare a progress report that evaluates the

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1 effectiveness of the program. The department shall make the report available to the  
2 public.

3 **(5)** The department of justice shall, after 5 years, prepare a comprehensive  
4 report that analyzes the data submitted under sub. (3) for the previous 5 years and  
5 shall submit the report to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2).

6 **(6)** The department may not issue any grant under this section on or after the  
7 date on which 5 years have lapsed after the effective date of this subsection .... [LRB  
8 inserts date].

9 **(END)**