State of Wisconsin
2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1360/1
TJD:cjs

2021 SENATE BILL 7

January 15, 2021 – Introduced by Senators JACQUE, STROEBEL, DARLING, FELZKOWSKI, KAPENGA, MARKLEIN, PETROWSKI, WANGGAARD, TESTIN, WIMBERGER, STAFSHOLT, NASS, KOOYENGA, BALLWEG and BRADLEY, cosponsored by Representatives THIESFELDT, HORLACHER, BROOKS and SCHRAA. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Children and Families.

AN ACT ***to create*** 252.03 (2g) of the statutes; **relating to:** closure of and forbidding gatherings in places of worship.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill prohibits local health officers from closing or forbidding gatherings in places of worship to control outbreaks and epidemics of the 2019 novel coronavirus. Currently, local health officers have the statutory authority to do what is reasonable and necessary for the prevention and suppression of disease and forbid public gatherings when necessary to control outbreaks or epidemics, among other public health powers.

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

SECTION 1. 252.03 (2g) of the statutes is created to read:

252.03 **(2g)** A local health officer may not order the closure of or forbid gatherings in places of worship to control outbreaks and epidemics of the 2019 novel coronavirus.

(END)