1999 SENATE BILL 330

January 19, 2000 – Introduced by Senators Drzewiecki, Roessler, Schultz, Farrow, A. Lasee, Rosenzweig, Darling, Cowles and Panzer, cosponsored by Representatives Ziegelbauer, Musser, Hundertmark, Underheim, Stone, Ryba, Plouff, Porter, Urban, Pettis and Wasserman. Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Consumer Affairs.

- 1 AN ACT *to create* 940.208 of the statutes; **relating to:** threats to state or county
- 2 social service workers and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law prohibits certain threats to cause bodily harm to the person or family member of a judge, a witness or an official, employe or agent of the department of revenue, department of commerce or department of workforce development. This bill prohibits certain threats to cause bodily harm to the person or family member of a social service worker, defined under the bill to mean an official or an employe of the department of health and family services, a county department of human services, a county department of social services, a county department of community programs or a county department of developmental disabilities services. A threat is covered by this prohibition if: 1) the person making the threat knows or should have known that the victim is a social service worker or a member of the social service worker's family; 2) at the time of the threat, the victim is acting in his or her official capacity or the threat is made in response to any action taken in an official capacity; and 3) the victim did not consent to the threat. A person who violates this prohibition may be imprisoned for up to nine months, fined up to \$10,000 or both.

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

Section 1. 940.208 of the statutes is created to read:

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| 1 | 940.208 Threat to state or county social service worker. (1) In this |
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| 2 | section: |
| 3 | (a) "Family member" means a parent, spouse, sibling, child, stepchild, foster |
| 4 | child or treatment foster child. |
| 5 | (b) "Social service worker" means an official or employe of the department of |
| 6 | health and family services, a county department of human services, a county |
| 7 | department of social services, a county department of community programs or a |
| 8 | county department of developmental disabilities services. |
| 9 | (2) Whoever intentionally threatens to cause bodily harm to the person or |
| 10 | family member of a social service worker under all of the following circumstances is |
| 11 | guilty of a Class A misdemeaner: |
| 12 | (a) At the time of the threat, the actor knows or should have known that the |
| 13 | victim is a social service worker or a member of the social service worker's family. |
| 14 | (b) The social service worker is acting in an official capacity at the time of the |
| 15 | threat or the threat is in response to any action taken in an official capacity. |
| 16 | (c) There is no consent by the person threatened. |

(END)