

2005 ASSEMBLY BILL 172

March 8, 2005 – Introduced by Representatives MOLEPSKE, VAN AKKEREN, SEIDEL, TURNER, ZEPNICK, CULLEN, COLON, BIES, HAHN, HINES, VRUWINK, GRIGSBY, BERCEAU, OTT, SHERIDAN and M. WILLIAMS, cosponsored by Senators HANSEN, ROESSLER and LASSA. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice and Homeland Security.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 950.02 (1) and 950.02 (3) of the statutes; **relating to:** the rights
2 of adult children of crime victims.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a victim of a crime has a variety of rights, including the right to notice of court proceedings, the right to make a statement in connection with a sentencing, dispositional, or parole hearing, and the right to restitution. Family members have those rights if the victim is deceased or is physically or emotionally unable to exercise his or her own rights as a victim. Current law defines “family member” to include a spouse, child, sibling, parent, or legal guardian, but in this context “child” does not include a person who is 18 years or older. Thus, adult children of a deceased victim or of a victim who is otherwise unable to exercise his or her own rights do not have rights as crime victims.

This bill amends the definition of “family member” so that it includes adult children. Under the bill, an adult child would have the same rights as a minor child in cases in which the victim is deceased or is otherwise unable to exercise his or her own rights.

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:

