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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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**2005 Wisconsin Act 129**  
[2005 Assembly Bill 624]

**Payments to State Public Defender  
for Legal Representation**

The State Public Defender (SPD) provides legal representation to persons who are indigent for certain types of legal proceedings including criminal, commitment, protective placement, and paternity proceedings. The client is required to make a financial contribution for the representation if he or she is able.

Client payment rates are established by the SPD based on the type of case. The payment rate for each type of case includes a so-called “discount fee” that a client may pay at the beginning of the representation, with no additional amount required for the entire representation.

***2005 Wisconsin Act 129:***

- Allows the SPD to establish by rule the time period for paying the “discount fee” for representation. According to the SPD, the discount fee accounts for most of the SPD’s collections revenue and, with the new authority, the SPD may undertake pilot programs to determine if different time periods for payment might produce more revenue.
- Also reorganizes and clarifies the SPD’s fee authority, including repealing an unused provision on “partial payments.”

***Effective Date:*** Wisconsin Act 129 became effective March 25, 2006.

***Prepared by:*** Don Dyke, Chief of Legal Services

May 5, 2006

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.