ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 2, TO 2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 309

June 26, 2007 – Offered by Representative Albers.

AN ACT *to amend* 767.405 (14) (b) of the statutes; **relating to:** submitting custody study reports to the parties and offering and admitting custody study reports in accordance with the rules of evidence.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, in an action affecting the family, such as a divorce, if there is a minor child and the parties do not agree on legal custody or physical placement, the parties must be referred to mediation to attempt to resolve the contested issues. The court may order a person or entity designated by the county to conduct a legal custody or physical placement study to investigate such issues as the conditions of the child's home, the parties' performance of parental duties, and whether either party has engaged in domestic abuse. The report that results from the study is submitted to the court, made available to the parties, and made a part of the record of the action unless the court orders otherwise. This substitute amendment requires that the report be submitted to the parties at least ten days before it is introduced into evidence, that it be offered and received in accordance with the rules of evidence, and that it not be submitted to the court before it is introduced into evidence.

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

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SECTION 1.	767.405	(14) (b)	of the	statutes is	amended	to read:

767.405 **(14)** (b) The person or entity investigating the parties under par. (a) shall complete the investigation and submit a report of the results to the court. The court shall make the results available to both parties at least 10 days before the report is introduced into evidence. The report shall be a part of the record in the action unless the court orders otherwise offered and received in accordance with the rules of evidence. The report may not be submitted to the court before it is introduced into evidence.

SECTION 2. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to legal custody and physical placement study reports that are completed on the effective date of this subsection.

12 (END)