## 2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 508

October 20, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives Seidel, Zigmunt, Vruwink, Turner, Clark, Berceau, Pridemore, Sinicki, Grigsby and Kessler, cosponsored by Senators Taylor and Plale. Referred to Committee on Children and Families.

AN ACT *to renumber and amend* 767.405 (14) (b) of the statutes; **relating to:**submitting custody study reports to the parties and offering 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 bill requires that the report be submitted to both the court and the parties at least ten days before it is introduced into evidence. The court may review the report but may not rely upon it as evidence before it is properly introduced. The report must be offered in accordance with the rules of evidence, and is a part of the record in the action if it is so offered and admitted into evidence.

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

## **ASSEMBLY BILL 508**

1	<b>SECTION 1.</b> 767.405 (14) (b) of the statutes is renumbered 767.405 (14) (b) 1. and
2	amended to read:
3	767.405 (14) (b) 1. The person or entity investigating the parties under par. (a)
4	shall complete the investigation and, prepare a report of the results, and, at least 10
5	days before the report is introduced into evidence under subd. 2., submit the results
6	report to the court. The court shall make the results available and to both parties.
7	The court may review the report, but may not rely upon it as evidence before it is
8	properly introduced under subd. 2.
9	2. The report under subd. 1. shall be offered in accordance with the rules of
10	evidence and shall be a part of the record in the action unless the court orders
11	otherwise if it is so offered and admitted into evidence.
12	Section 2. Initial applicability.
13	(1) This act first applies to legal custody and physical placement study reports
14	that are completed on the effective date of this subsection.
15	(END)