



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2009 Senate Bill 638**

**Senate Amendment 1**

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*Senate Bill 638* relates to the provision of accessible instructional materials for students with disabilities (usually blind or visually impaired) enrolled in a University of Wisconsin System or Technical College System institution (institution). The bill generally requires publishers to provide instructional material in electronic format, within 15 days of receipt of a request from an institution for the material and for permission to convert the material into a format accessible to the student. The bill defines “publisher” as a person that publishes or manufactures instructional material. The bill provides that a publisher of instructional material is considered to be a public place of accommodation or amusement and that any publisher that refuses to provide instructional material as required under the bill is in violation of the public accommodations law.

*Senate Amendment 1* provides that the term “publisher” does *not* include a publisher or manufacturer of instructional material that is a member of a nationwide exchange network that facilitates and supports the delivery of instructional material in an alternative format to students with disabilities, if that material is delivered to those students through that network within seven working days after a request for that material is made.

### **Legislative History**

On April 7, 2010, Senator Wirch introduced Senate Amendment 1. The Senate Committee on Small Business, Emergency Preparedness, Technical Colleges, and Consumer Protection adopted Senate Amendment 1, and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2.

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