



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 74
[2011 Senate Bill 109]

**Soft Tissue Injury to an Officer
Caused by a Person Resisting or
Obstructing Arrest**

2011 Wisconsin Act 74 relates to causing soft tissue injury or great bodily harm to a law enforcement officer when resisting or obstructing arrest, soft tissue injury caused by a prisoner, and providing penalties.

Prior to Act 74, a person who caused substantial bodily harm to a law enforcement officer, while knowingly resisting or obstructing an officer in the officer's official capacity, would be guilty of a Class H felony (punishable by a fine up to \$10,000 or imprisonment up to six years, or both). Also under prior law, any prisoner confined to a state prison or other state, county, or municipal detention facility who intentionally caused bodily harm to an officer, employee, visitor, or other inmate of the facility would be guilty of a Class H felony.

Act 74 adds that a person who causes a soft tissue injury to an officer, while knowingly resisting or obstructing an officer, is guilty of a Class H felony, and adds that a person who causes great bodily harm to an officer, while knowingly resisting or obstructing an officer, is guilty of a Class G felony (punishable by a fine up to \$25,000 or imprisonment up to 10 years, or both).

The Act also adds that a prisoner confined to a state prison or other state, county, or municipal detention facility who intentionally causes a soft tissue injury to an officer, employee, visitor, or other inmate of the facility is guilty of a Class H felony.

The Act defines "soft tissue injury" to mean an injury that requires medical attention to a tissue that connects, supports, or surrounds other structures and organs of the body and includes tendons, ligaments, fascia, skin, fibrous tissues, fat, synovial membranes, muscles, nerves, and blood vessels.

Effective date: Act 74 takes effect on December 2, 2011.

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December 2, 2011

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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/>.