



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4095/en
CMH:cjs

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 667

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 48.981 (11) of the statutes; **relating to:** development and
2 implementation of a plan for identifying and addressing areas in which there
3 is a need for improvement in the practices used to investigate reports of abuse
4 or neglect involving children with disabilities.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

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

5 **SECTION 1.** 48.981 (11) of the statutes is created to read:
6 48.981 (11) INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES. (a) In this
7 subsection, “child with a disability” means a child with a disability, as defined in s.
8 106.50 (1m) (g), including a child with a disability, as defined in s. 115.76 (5) (a).
9 (b) The department shall develop and implement a plan for identifying and
10 addressing areas in which there is a need for improvement in the practices used to

ASSEMBLY BILL 667**SECTION 1**

1 investigate reports of suspected or threatened abuse or neglect of a child with a
2 disability. In developing that plan the department shall use an open public
3 participation process that includes the input of representatives of law enforcement
4 agencies, the department of health services, and other stakeholders that the
5 department considers appropriate. On completion of the plan, the department shall
6 post the plan on its Internet site and distribute copies of the plan to all agencies that
7 conduct abuse and neglect investigations in this state. At a minimum, the
8 department shall consider including in the plan all of the following:

9 1. A requirement that each agency, on receipt of a report of suspected or
10 threatened abuse or neglect, ask the reporter whether the child who is the subject
11 of the report is a child with a disability.

12 2. Procedures for agencies to use to identify and address any specific categories
13 of disabilities that a child with a disability reported to the agency may have.

14 3. Procedures to ensure that each agency is in compliance with Part A of Title
15 II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC 12131 to 12134. Those procedures
16 shall include reasonable modifications to the rules, policies, and practices of the
17 agency, the removal of architectural, communication, and transportation barriers,
18 and the provision of auxiliary aids and services as necessary to enable a person with
19 a disability to receive the services or participate in the programs or activities
20 provided by the agency.

21 4. Interviewing strategies tailored to the investigation of abuse or neglect
22 reports involving children with disabilities that include forensic interviewing
23 strategies for interviewing those children, including children with communication
24 issues.

