AN ACT to create 253.155 and 948.215 of the statutes; relating to: causing harm to a child by cosleeping while intoxicated, providing information about safe sleep, and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under this bill, no person may injure or kill a child under 12 months of age by cosleeping, while the person is intoxicated, with the child. Under the bill, if the child suffers bodily harm as a consequence, the person is guilty of a Class H felony, if the child suffers great bodily harm as a consequence, the person is guilty of a Class F felony, and if the child dies as a consequence, the person is guilty of a Class D felony.

The bill requires the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board (board) to purchase, prepare, or arrange with a nonprofit organization to prepare printed and audiovisual materials relating to cosleeping while intoxicated. The materials must include information regarding safe sleep and the dangers of cosleeping while intoxicated. The board must make the materials available to certain entities and may satisfy that requirement by making the materials available, at no charge, on its Internet site. Under the bill, the board or nonprofit organization is immune from any damages resulting from any good faith act or omission in preparing or distributing the materials.

The bill requires a physician, a nurse–midwife, or another trained, designated health care provider to provide to a pregnant woman, free of charge and during a prenatal health care appointment in her third trimester of pregnancy, a copy of the board’s printed materials, and to inform the woman of, and make available to her to
view, the board’s audiovisual materials. Under the bill, if after a child is born, the mother’s medical records do not indicate she received the materials at a prenatal appointment, a physician, a nurse–midwife, a birth attendant, or another trained, designated health care provider must provide to each parent of the infant who is present, before the mother is discharged from the hospital or maternity home, a copy of the printed materials and inform them of the board’s audiovisual materials. At the same time the materials are provided to the mother or parents, the person who provided the materials must provide the parent with a form, prepared by the board, that includes a statement that the parent has been advised of the risks of cosleeping with an infant while that parent is intoxicated and a statement that the parent will share that information with all persons who provide care for the infant. Under the bill, a hospital, maternity home, physician, nurse–midwife, other staff member of the hospital or maternity home, or birth attendant is immune from liability for any damages resulting from any good faith act or omission in providing the board’s materials and form.

The bill also requires certain individuals and entities to provide the board’s materials to specified individuals. The bill requires each school board to provide or arrange with a nonprofit organization or health care provider to provide age–appropriate instruction relating to safe sleep, including dangers of cosleeping while intoxicated, for pupils in one of grades 10 to 12. A county department or Indian tribe that provides home visitation services and providers of prenatal, postpartum, and young child care coordination services must provide to recipients of those services a copy of the board’s printed materials and give an oral explanation of those materials. Under the bill, a county department, a nonprofit organization, a school board, a health care provider, an Indian tribe, or a provider of prenatal, postpartum, and young child care coordination is immune from liability for any damages resulting from any good faith act or omission in connection with providing the training or materials.

Because this bill creates a new crime or revises a penalty for an existing crime, the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties may be requested to prepare a report concerning the proposed penalty and the costs or savings that are likely to result if the bill is enacted.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

SECTION 1. 253.155 of the statutes is created to read:

253.155 Safe sleep. (1) Definitions. In this section:

(a) “Board” means the child abuse and neglect prevention board.

(b) “Controlled substance” has the meaning given in s. 961.01 (4).
(c) “Controlled substance analog” has the meaning given in s. 961.01 (4m).

(d) “Cosleeping” means being asleep or unconscious while being on the same bed or on another sleeping surface with an infant.

(e) “County department” means a county department of human services or social services under s. 46.215, 46.22, or 46.23.

(f) “Health care provider” means any person who is licensed, registered, permitted, or certified by the department of health services or the department of safety and professional services to provide health care services in this state.

(g) “Infant” means a child from birth until 12 months of age.

(h) “Intoxicated” means having an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more or having substantially impaired physical or mental functioning as a result of the use of alcohol, a controlled substance, or a controlled substance analog or other drug, or any combination of those substances.

(i) “Nonprofit organization” means an organization described in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is dedicated to the prevention of injury to or death of infants and the support of families affected by injury to or death of an infant.

2 INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS. The board shall purchase or prepare, or arrange with a nonprofit organization to prepare, printed and audiovisual materials relating to safe sleep, including the dangers of cosleeping while intoxicated. The materials shall be prepared in English, Spanish, and other languages spoken by a significant number of state residents, as determined by the board. The board shall make those printed and audiovisual materials available to all hospitals and maternity homes and to nurse-midwives licensed under s. 441.15 that are required to provide or make available materials to a parent under sub. (3) (a), and to all school boards and nonprofit organizations that are permitted to provide the materials to pupils in one
of grades 10 to 12 under sub. (4). The board shall also make those printed materials available to all county departments and Indian tribes that are providing home visitation services under s. 48.983 (4) (b) 1. and to all providers of prenatal, postpartum, and young child care coordination services under s. 49.45 (44). The board may satisfy the requirement under this subsection by making the materials available at no charge on the board's Internet site.

(3) INFORMATION TO PARENTS. (a) 1. During a prenatal health care appointment during the third trimester of pregnancy, a physician, a nurse-midwife, or another trained, designated health care provider shall provide to the mother of the unborn child, without cost to the mother, a copy of the printed materials purchased or prepared under sub. (2), shall inform the mother of the availability of the audiovisual materials purchased or prepared under sub. (2), and shall make those audiovisual materials available for the mother to view.

2. If the medical records of the mother do not include the statement under par. (d) that the materials and form have been provided to her at a prenatal appointment as described under subd. 1., a physician, a nurse-midwife, a birth attendant, or another trained, designated health care provider shall provide to each parent of the infant who is present, before the mother is discharged from the hospital or maternity home after childbirth and without cost to the parent, a copy of the printed materials purchased or prepared under sub. (2) and shall inform the parent of the availability of the audiovisual materials purchased or prepared under sub. (2).

(b) At the same time that the printed materials are provided under par. (a) 1. or 2., the person who provides the printed materials shall also provide the parent with a form prepared by the board in English, Spanish, and other languages spoken
by a significant number of state residents, as determined by the board, that includes all of the following:

1. A statement that the parent has been advised as to the risks of cosleeping while that parent is intoxicated.

2. A statement that the parent will share the information specified in subd. 1. with all persons who provide care for the infant.

(c) In preparing the form under par. (b), the board may not include in the form a signature line for the parent to sign or require that the parent sign the form.

(d) The person who provides the printed materials under par. (a) 1. or 2. and the form under par. (b) shall include in the medical records of the mother a statement that the printed materials and form have been provided as required under pars. (a) 1. or 2. and (b) and that the audiovisual materials have been made available as required under par. (a) 1. or that a parent has been informed of their availability as required under par. (a) 2., whichever is applicable.

(4) INSTRUCTION FOR PUPILS. Each school board shall provide or arrange with a nonprofit organization or health care provider to provide age-appropriate instruction relating to safe sleep, including the dangers of cosleeping while intoxicated, for pupils in one of grades 10 to 12. The person providing the instruction may provide to each pupil receiving the instruction a copy of the printed materials purchased or prepared under sub. (2), a presentation of the audiovisual materials purchased or prepared under sub. (2), and an oral explanation of those printed and audiovisual materials.

(5) INFORMATION TO HOME VISITATION OR CARE COORDINATION SERVICES RECIPIENTS. A county department or Indian tribe that is providing home visitation services under s. 48.983 (4) (b) 1. and a provider of prenatal, postpartum, and young child care
coordination services under s. 49.45 (44) shall provide to a recipient of those services,
without cost, a copy of the printed materials purchased or prepared under sub. (2)
and an oral explanation of those materials.

(6) Immunity from liability. (a) The board, a nonprofit organization specified
under sub. (2), or a person from whom the board purchases the materials specified
in sub. (2) is immune from liability for any damages resulting from any good faith
act or omission in preparing and distributing, or in failing to prepare and distribute,
the materials specified in sub. (2).

(b) A hospital, maternity home, physician, nurse-midwife, birth attendant, or
other health care provider is immune from liability for any damages resulting from
any good faith act or omission in providing or failing to provide the printed and
audiovisual materials specified in sub. (3) (a) or the form specified in sub. (3) (b).

(c) A school board, nonprofit organization, or health care provider specified
under sub. (4) is immune from liability for any damages resulting from any good faith
act or omission in providing or failing to provide the instruction and the printed and
audiovisual materials and oral explanation specified in sub. (4).

(d) A county department or Indian tribe that is providing home visitation
services under s. 48.983 (4) (b) 1. and a provider of prenatal, postpartum, and young
child care coordination services under s. 49.45 (44) is immune from liability for any
damages resulting from any good faith act or omission in providing or failing to
provide the printed materials and oral explanation specified in sub. (5).

SECTION 2. 948.215 of the statutes is created to read:

948.215 Intoxicated cosleeping. (1) Definitions. In this section:

(a) “Cosleep” means to be asleep or unconscious while being on the same bed
or on another sleeping surface with an infant.
(b) “Infant” means a child from birth until 12 months of age.

(c) “Intoxicated” means having an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more or having substantially impaired physical or mental functioning as a result of the use of alcohol, a controlled substance, or a controlled substance analog or other drug, or any combination thereof.

(2) **Prohibition.** No person may cause harm to an infant by cosleeping, while he or she is intoxicated, with the infant.

(3) **Penalties.** A person who violates sub. (2) is guilty of one of the following:

(a) A Class H felony if bodily harm to the infant is a consequence.

(b) A Class F felony if great bodily harm to the infant is a consequence.

(c) A Class D felony if death to the infant is a consequence.

(END)