



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 117
[2017 Senate Bill 128]

**Allowing Circuit Court
Commissioners to Issue Search
Warrants for Certain Civil
Violations**

Circuit court commissioners are granted certain statutory powers, including the authority, in criminal matters, to issue search warrants. Under current law, first-offense operating while intoxicated (OWI) is generally a civil offense, not a crime. 2015 Wisconsin Act 183 authorized a court to issue a warrant, upon probable cause, for the search or seizure of anything that is the fruit of or has been used in the commission of an OWI offense, whether criminal or noncriminal. 2017 Wisconsin Act 117 extends this authority to circuit court commissioners.

Effective date: December 2, 2017

Prepared by: David Moore, Senior Staff Attorney

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DM:mcm;jal

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.wisconsin.gov>.