



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 255
[2017 Assembly Bill 786]

**Court Appointed Special
Advocates Grant Program**

State law generally allows courts to obtain the services of a court-appointed special advocate program, under which trained and supervised volunteers that meet certain qualifications may be appointed to provide specified services related to child welfare. A court may appoint a special advocate in certain proceedings if the court determines that the appointment is in a child's best interest.

Prior law required the Department of Justice to provide \$80,000 each fiscal year in grants to the Wisconsin Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (CASA Association), with a sunset date of July 1, 2019.

2017 Wisconsin Act 255 increases the grant funding to the CASA Association to \$250,000 each fiscal year, eliminates the sunset date, and requires the CASA Association to submit an annual report describing the use of the grant funds to the Governor, Joint Committee on Finance, and the appropriate standing committees of the Legislature.

Effective date: April 6, 2018

Prepared by: Amber Otis, Staff Attorney

April 12, 2018

AO:mcm;ty

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>.