February 21, 2017 - Introduced by Senators VUKMIR, NASS and STROEBEL, cosponsored by Representatives SANFELIPPO, JACQUE, HORLACHER, MURPHY, DUCHOW, GANNON, O'TT, SKOWRONSKI, KREMER, TITTL, KRUG and E. BROOKS. Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

AN ACT to amend 938.538 (3) (a) 1. of the statutes; relating to: time limit on a restrictive custody sanction under the Serious Juvenile Offender Program.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill removes the three-year limit on the amount of time the Department of Corrections may place certain juveniles participating in the Serious Juvenile Offender Program (SJOP) in a Type 1 juvenile correctional facility or a secured residential care center for children and youth (secured facility).

Currently, a juvenile is eligible for placement in the SJOP if he or she has been adjudicated delinquent for committing certain felonies, including, for a juvenile 14 years of age or over, any crime punishable by life imprisonment if committed by an adult and if he or she has been found to be a danger to the public and to be in need of restrictive custodial treatment.

Under current law, a juvenile in the SJOP is placed in a secured facility for up to three years or, if the juvenile has committed an act that would be punishable by life imprisonment if committed by an adult, until the juvenile reaches 25 years of age, unless released sooner, and provided with other sanctions, including intensive supervision, electronic monitoring, alcohol or other drug abuse treatment and services, mental health treatment and services, community service, restitution, and education and employment services. This bill does not change the age 25 limit on placement of a juvenile who has committed an act that would be punishable by life imprisonment if committed by an adult.
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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. 938.538 (3) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

938.538 (3) (a) 1. Subject to subd. 1m., placement in a Type 1 juvenile correctional facility or a secured residential care center for children and youth for a period of not more than 3 years.

SECTION 2. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to a juvenile placed in the serious juvenile offender program on the effective date of this subsection.