

---

# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

---



**Prepared by:** Melissa Schmidt, Principal Attorney, and Amber Otis, Senior Staff Attorney

March 14, 2022

**2021 Wisconsin Act 147**  
[2021 Senate Bill 417]

**Responses to Citizen Review  
Panel Annual Reports**

### BACKGROUND

The federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) generally requires states to establish at least three citizen review panels in order to receive CAPTA grant funds. Pursuant to this requirement, eight citizen review panels currently exist in Wisconsin. CAPTA requires that each citizen review panel report annually and provide a summary of the activities of the panel and recommendations to improve the child protection services systems at the state and local levels. In addition, within six months of the date on which the report is submitted, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) must submit a written response to the citizen review panel<sup>1</sup> that describes whether or how the state will incorporate the panel's recommendations, where appropriate, to make measurable progress in improving the state and local child protective systems.

### 2021 WISCONSIN ACT 147

2021 Wisconsin Act 147 requires DCF to transmit to the appropriate legislative standing committees the annual reports from citizen review panels and DCF's written responses to those reports.

**Effective date:** January 1, 2023

MS:AO:ksm

---

<sup>1</sup> Wisconsin's citizen review panel annual reports, and DCF's response to such reports are available at: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/prevention/crp>.