

---

# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

---



**Memo published:** January 28, 2022

**Contact:** Steve McCarthy, Senior Staff Attorney

**2021 Senate Bill 259**

**Assembly Amendment 1**

### 2021 SENATE BILL 259

Senate Bill 259 provides for regulation and licensing for the practice of genetic counseling. Specifically, the bill creates the Genetic Counselors Affiliated Credentialing Board, which is attached to the Medical Examining Board and has authority to grant licenses to practice genetic counseling.

The bill contains a number of other regulations for licensure and renewal of licensure as a genetic counselor, including academic, examination, independent certification, arrest and conviction record, continuing education, and fee requirements.

The bill also provides certain authority for the Genetic Counselors Affiliated Credentialing Board, including licensing authority for certain individuals based on certain professional experience, disciplinary authority of licensees, and a requirement to promulgate certain administrative rules, including rules to adopt the National Society of Genetic Counselors code of ethics to govern the professional conduct of genetic counselors, establish licensure renewal requirements, and establish criteria for the approval of continuing education programs and courses.

### ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

The amendment provides that it is a prohibited practice for a genetic counselor to encourage an expectant parent to obtain an elective abortion.

### BILL HISTORY

Senate Bill 259 was passed by the Senate on September 28, 2021, and ordered immediately messaged to the Assembly. Assembly Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 259 was introduced by Representative Steffen on January 20, 2022. On January 26, 2022, the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform recommended adoption of the amendment, and passage of the bill, as amended, by votes of Ayes, 6; Noes, 3.

SM:jal