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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

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**Memo published:** October 13, 2023    **Contact:** Amber Otis, Senior Staff Attorney, or Kelly McGraw, Staff Attorney

**2023 Senate Bill 178**

**Senate Amendment 1**

### 2023 SENATE BILL 178

Under current law, physicians, authorities of various medical institutions, and other persons having knowledge of a death must report certain types of deaths, including suicide, to the sheriff, police chief, medical examiner, or coroner of the county where the death took place.

2023 Senate Bill 178 creates a requirement to contact a medical examiner or coroner in certain circumstances to determine whether the medical examiner or coroner is required to investigate the death. Specifically, the bill requires that, if a physician, authority, or other person required to report deaths has knowledge of a death that occurred within 24 hours after an individual either has presented at or is admitted to a hospital or similar institution, whichever is earlier, that person with knowledge must contact the medical examiner or coroner to determine whether the death is reportable under the current laws requiring a medical examiner or coroner to investigate certain deaths.

### SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 specifies that the bill's requirements to not apply to a hospice, as defined under current law.

### BILL HISTORY

The Joint Legislative Council introduced Senate Bill 178 on April 3, 2023. On September 29, 2023, Senator Ballweg offered Senate Amendment 1. On October 12, 2023, the Senate Committee on Health recommended adoption of the amendment, and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 6; Noes, 0.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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