Wisconsin Legislative Council AMENDMENT MEMO



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2025 Assembly Bill 103

Assembly Amendment 1

2025 ASSEMBLY BILL 103

Assembly Bill 103 requires school districts to adopt policies addressing two topics: (1) student names and pronouns in official school records; and (2) student names and pronounces used by school staff.

Official School Records

The bill requires every school board to adopt a policy requiring official school records to use a student's legal name and the pronouns provided at the time the student first enrolled in the district, unless the student meets specific conditions. A district cannot change a student's name and pronouns in official school records unless one of the following applies: (1) the student's parent or guardian (hereinafter, "parent") submits a written request and documentation of the student's legal name change; (2) a student who is 18 years or older provides an affidavit including the student's former legal name and new legal name and affirming certain information; or (3) each parent of a minor student provides an affidavit including the student and affirming certain information.¹

Before a school district may change a student's name and pronouns in official school records, the district must attempt to notify each parent who has access to the student's records. The bill prohibits a district from making the requested change if the student's parents do not support the requested change.

Names and Pronouns Used by School Staff

The bill requires every school board to adopt a policy providing that a minor student's parent determines the names and pronouns school staff may use to refer to the student during school hours. Staff cannot refer to a minor student using a name or pronouns that do not align with the student's biological sex without written authorization from the parent. However, staff may refer to a student using a shortened version of the student's legal first or middle name without such authorization.

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¹ An affidavit filed by an adult student must affirm that the student has changed the student's legal name, that the student uses the new legal name for all official purposes, that the student is not a registered sex offender, and that the student has not changed their name for a fraudulent purpose or in order to interfere with the rights of others. An affidavit filed by the parent of a minor student must affirm that the student nor the parent is prohibited from changing the student's name, and that the student has not changed their legal name for a fraudulent purposes or in order to registered sex offender or the student uses the new legal name for all official purposes, that neither the student nor the parent is prohibited from changing the student's name, and that the student has not changed their legal name for a fraudulent purpose or in order to interfere with the rights of others.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 changes the conditions a student must meet before the school district may change the student's official school records, and before school staff may refer to the student using a name and pronouns that do not align with their biological sex.

The amendment differs from the original bill because it does not require a legal name change before a school district may alter a student's name and pronouns in official school records, and changes the documentation a parent or student must submit. The amendment allows a district to change official school records for a minor if the student's parent submits a written notarized statement requesting a name and pronoun change, and allows a district to change school records for an adult student if the student submits a written notarized statement requesting a name and pronoun change.

Additionally, the amendment differs from the original bill regarding the required statement a parent must submit before school staff may refer to a minor student using a name or pronouns that do not align with the student's biological sex. Unlike the bill, the amendment requires the written authorization from a parent to be notarized.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Amendment 1 was introduced by Representative Dittrich on March 11, 2025. On March 13, 2025, the Assembly Committee on Education adopted the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 4. The committee then passed the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 4.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's <u>bill history page</u>.

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