
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2025 Senate Bill 15

Senate Amendment 1

2025 SENATE BILL 15

Senate Bill 15 expands certain provisions relating to criminal and restraining order proceedings that currently apply when a victim is an “elder person” to also apply when a victim is an “adult at risk.” Like current law, the bill defines an “adult at risk” as “any adult who has a physical or mental condition that substantially impairs his or her ability to care for his or her needs and who has experienced, is currently experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation.”

Specifically, the bill does all of the following:

- Expands the crime of physical abuse of an elder person to also apply to an adult at risk. This crime may be punishable at various felony levels, depending on the level of bodily harm caused and whether the conduct was intentional versus reckless, and it applies regardless of whether the defendant had actual knowledge of the victim’s status as an adult at risk.
- Allows a sentencing court to increase the maximum term of imprisonment prescribed by law for a crime, if a person is convicted of a crime for which imprisonment may be imposed, and the crime victim is an adult at risk. This penalty enhancer applies regardless of whether the defendant had actual knowledge that the crime victim was an adult at risk at the time of the crime.
- Creates new ground for first degree sexual assault that applies when a person commits an act that would constitute a second degree sexual assault against an adult at risk, which applies regardless of whether the defendant had actual knowledge of the victim’s status as an adult at risk.
- Expands a current law procedure to also allow for the freezing of assets of a defendant charged with certain crimes of financial exploitation, if the crime involved the taking or loss of property valued at more than \$2,500, and the crime victim was an adult at risk.
- Requires a court to permit an adult at risk who is a petitioner of certain types of restraining orders to participate in hearings by telephone or live audiovisual means.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

The amendment modifies the bill’s provisions relating to a defendant’s knowledge that a victim is an adult at risk. Specifically, the amendment requires that a defendant have actual knowledge that a person is an adult at risk in order for the bill’s penalty enhancer and expanded crimes of sexual assault and physical abuse of an adult at risk to apply.

BILL HISTORY

Senator Jacqué offered Senate Amendment 1 on March 11, 2025. On March 13, 2025, the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety recommended adoption of the amendment on votes of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0; and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 7; Noes, 1.

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

AO:jal