

1987 Assembly Bill 268

Date of enactment: **November 16, 1987**
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1987 Wisconsin Act 73

AN ACT to repeal and recreate 972.12 of the statutes, relating to sequestration of jurors in criminal trials.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 972.12 of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

972.12 Sequestration of jurors. (1) Except as provided in sub. (2), the court may direct that the jurors sworn be kept together or be permitted to separate. The court may appoint an officer of the court to keep the jurors together and to prevent communication between the jurors and others.

(2) In trials for crimes punishable by life imprisonment, the court shall appoint an officer of the court to keep the jurors together as provided in sub. (1) after the jurors have been sworn.

NOTE: Under present law, juries in criminal cases must be sequestered during deliberations and at all times after they are sworn to try a Class A felony. This bill provides that, except in Class A felony trials, sequestration of jurors is a matter for the discretion of the trial judge.
