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ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1, TO 2003 ASSEMBLY BILL 381

January 8, 2004 - Offered by Committee on Family Law.

AN ACT *to create* 948.71 of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring informed consent by a child's parent or guardian for the child's ear piercing and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, body piercing, body piercers, and body-piercing establishments are regulated by the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS). "Body piercing" is defined as perforating any human body part or human tissue, except an ear, and placing a foreign object in the perforation in order to prevent the perforation from closing. Current DHFS rules prohibit the body piercing of persons under 16 years; the rules also prohibit the body piercing of persons aged 16 or 17 years unless an informed consent form is signed by the person's parent or legal guardian in the presence of the owner or other person responsible for the operation of the establishment.

This substitute amendment prohibits the owner or operator of an ear-piercing establishment from piercing the ear of a child or permitting an employee or contractor of the ear-piercing establishment to pierce the ear of a child, for compensation, unless an informed consent for the piercing is signed by the child's

parent or legal guardian in the presence of the owner, operator, employee, or contractor who performs the ear piercing.

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

Section 1. 948.71 of the statutes is created to read:

948.71 Ear piercing of a child; parental consent required. (1) In this section:

- (a) "Compensation" means direct or indirect payment, including the expectation of payment whether or not actually received.
- (b) "Ear piercing" means perforating the ear of another and placing a foreign object in the perforation in order to prevent the perforation from closing.
 - (c) "Ear-piercing establishment" means a business that performs ear piercing.
- (d) "Indirect payment" includes payment for the purchase of an earring under an agreement in which the ear-piercing establishment includes a free ear piercing with the purchase.
- (2) No owner or operator of an ear-piercing establishment may pierce the ear of, attempt to pierce the ear of, or offer to pierce the ear of a child for compensation or permit an employee or contractor of the ear-piercing establishment to pierce the ear of, attempt to pierce the ear of, or offer to pierce the ear of a child for compensation unless an informed consent form for the child has been signed by the child's parent or guardian in the presence of the owner, operator, employee, or contractor who performs the ear piercing.
- (3) Any owner or operator of an ear-piercing establishment who violates sub.(2) is subject to a Class D forfeiture.

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