



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 140 [2003 Assembly Bill 365]	Use of Collection Agencies by Municipal Courts
2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/	Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

Current law authorizes the clerk of circuit court to contract with a collection agency for the collection of unpaid fines and forfeitures. Section 59.40 (4), Stats. Current law is silent on the authority of municipal courts to contract with collection agencies.

2003 Wisconsin Act 140 expressly authorizes a municipal court to contract with a collection agency to collect unpaid forfeitures, assessments, and surcharges. Under the Act, costs of collection are deducted from the recovered forfeitures, assessments, and surcharges so that the collection costs are effectively shared prorata when the remaining recovered amounts are distributed.

Effective Date: Act 140 became effective March 25, 2004.

Prepared by: Don Dyke, Chief of Legal Services

April 1, 2004

DD:ksm

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.