



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2005 Wisconsin Act 467**  
[2005 Senate Bill 655]

**Joint Legislative Council  
Committee on Strengthening  
Wisconsin's Families**

*2005 Wisconsin Act 467* requires the Joint Legislative Council to create a special committee on strengthening Wisconsin's families in each biennium. The Act requires the Joint Legislative Council to direct the committee to study issues related to strengthening Wisconsin's families and develop specific recommendations and legislative proposals relating to these issues. The special committee must, from time to time, report its findings and its legislative and other recommendations to the Joint Legislative Council. Among the issues that the Joint Legislative Council may direct the special committee to study are the following, under the Act:

- Ways to increase awareness of the importance of families in society and resolving social issues.
- The establishment of a state council to improve coordination among state agencies of programs that affect families; to set priorities for state agencies based on community and family needs; to consolidate funding for programs and services that affect families; and to encourage local communities to form local collaborative entities to coordinate, decrease duplication of, and streamline the delivery of services provided by public and private entities to families, children, and youth.
- Ways to target public moneys for family services and not individuals.
- Existing laws relating to strengthening families.
- Ways in which the results from the scientific study of attachment and brain development can be incorporated into public schools, day care centers, and homes.
- Child support and custody issues involving fathers, for the purpose of ensuring that fathers are appropriately engaged in the lives of their children.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

- Changes to state agency rules, policies, guidelines, and procedures to strengthen families, reduce reliance on social service professionals for family support, and maximize community support for families.
- Identification of qualities held by successful Wisconsin families and recommendation of legislation to support those qualities.
- Changes to the state tax code to strengthen families and provide incentives to engage in family-supporting activities and services.
- The advantages and disadvantages of merging the Department of Workforce Development and the Department of Health and Family Services to create a new department of family supports to integrate family services currently administered by multiple departments.
- Proposed legislation to create a reconciliation council that would seek to bridge cultural and religious differences among different cultural and religious groups.
- Identification of support of private sector initiatives to strengthen families.
- Ways in which local government services can be performed by volunteer groups of individuals and ways in which saved moneys currently spent for these services by local governments can be allocated to the volunteer groups.
- Health care.

The special committee must be composed of 6 to 11 members who are not legislators and 4 to 12 legislator members.

***Effective Date:*** Act 467 takes effect on June 13, 2006 and sunsets on December 31, 2010.

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