
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2021 Wisconsin Act 257 [2021 Senate Bill 535]

Liability Exemption for Eyeglasses Provided by Charities

2021 Wisconsin Act 257 creates an exemption from liability for a charitable organization¹ that provides previously owned eyeglasses. Specifically, a charitable organization is not liable for any damages arising out of providing previously owned eyeglasses to an individual if all of the following apply:

- The recipient of the eyeglasses is at least 14 years of age.
- The eyeglasses are provided without charge.
- For distribution of the eyeglasses, the eyeglasses are provided by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist who has done any of the following:
 - Personally examined the individual who will receive the eyeglasses and issued a prescription for the eyeglasses.
 - Personally consulted with the licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist who issued the prescription for the eyeglasses.

Effective date: April 17, 2021

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¹ The act defines a “charitable organization” as “an organization described in section 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code.”