



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2013 Senate Bill 532

Senate Amendment 1

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Senate Bill 532 permits a child to be placed in a shelter care facility under a voluntary agreement. Shelter care facilities are nonsecure places for the temporary care and physical custody for children and are licensed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

Current Law

Under current law, a child may be held in a shelter care facility if he or she has been taken into custody under the Children's Code or the Juvenile Justice Code, has been ordered by the juvenile court to be held in temporary physical custody, or needs a transitional placement when emergency conditions necessitate an immediate change in placement.

The Bill

Under the bill, a child may be placed in a shelter care facility for no more than 20 days under a voluntary agreement. The bill provides that the child's parent, guardian, or Indian custodian, DCF, the Department of Corrections, a county department of human or social services, or a child welfare agency licensed to place children in shelter care facilities may place the child in a shelter care facility as provided under the bill.

A person who is licensed to operate a shelter care facility may request DCF to permit the shelter care facility to be used for voluntary placements under the bill. If DCF determines that the needs of children in the area served by the shelter care facility would be met by the services provided by the shelter care facility, DCF may approve the request.

Senate Amendment 1

Senate Amendment 1 clarifies that licensed child welfare agencies have the authority, if licensed to do so, to place children in shelter care facilities as provided under the bill.

Bill History

Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Farrow. On March 5, 2014, the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services adopted the amendment, and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

LR:ksm