



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2015 Assembly Bill 40**

**Assembly Amendment 1 and  
Senate Amendment 1**

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### CURRENT LAW

Generally, proposed adoptive parents who have not previously adopted a child must complete pre-adoption training that complies with statutory and Department of Children and Families (DCF) requirements. If a proposed adoptive parent resides in Wisconsin, the preadoption training must be provided by an entity located within the state, such as a licensed private adoption agency or a Post-Adoption Resource Center (PARC).

### 2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 40

Assembly Bill 40 modifies aspects of the pre-adoption training requirements, including the hours required, the subjects covered, and how training must be delivered. Under the bill, the pre-adoption training requirements must include all of the following:

- 25 total hours of pre-adoption training.
- At least six pre-adoption training hours delivered in person, either individually or in a group.
- At least six pre-adoption training hours delivered after the child is placed in the home, but before an adoption order is granted.
- An in-person meeting with a representative of the PARC that serves the area in which the proposed adoptive parent resides, which may count towards the required in-person training hours.
- Training covering the issues an adoptive parent may face, including issues relating to the adoption of special needs or foreign children, and covering the topics of attachment, trauma, neglect, and abuse, including sexual abuse.

The bill provides that a proposed adoptive parent who resides in Wisconsin may satisfy the pre-adoption training requirement by completing training provided by an out-of-state agency if: (1) the agency negotiated or arranged placement of the child; (2) the training is equivalent to Wisconsin requirements; and (3) the training is approved by either DCF or a Wisconsin-licensed adoption agency.

The bill requires the agency involved in an adoption to report the names and contact information of adoptive parents and the name and birth date of the adopted child to the PARC that serves the geographic area in which the family resides within 90 days after a court grants an adoption.

### **ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1**

Assembly Amendment 1 removes the provision of the bill allowing a licensed adoption agency to approve pre-adoption training provided to a Wisconsin resident by an out-of-state adoption agency. Under the amendment, only DCF may approve out-of-state, pre-adoption training.

### **SENATE AMENDMENT 1**

Senate Amendment 1 removes the requirement that proposed adoptive parents meet with a representative of a PARC while completing the pre-adoption training.

The amendment removes the requirement that at least six hours of pre-adoption training be provided after a child is placed in the proposed adoptive home, but before the adoption is granted.

The amendment requires a court, at the time of adoption, to advise the adoptive parent that personal and contact information will be shared with a PARC within 90 days after the adoption is granted, unless the adoptive parent elects not to have the information shared. The amendment permits a parent to elect not to have the information shared.

### **BILL HISTORY**

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Kleefisch. On June 3, 2015, the Assembly Committee on Children and Families recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 12; Noes, 0, and passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 12; Noes, 0.

Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senator LeMahieu on January 27, 2016. On January 28, 2016, the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services recommended adoption of Senate Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2, and concurrence in the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

RES:jal