Wisconsin Legislative Council AMENDMENT MEMO



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2023 Assembly Bill 412

Assembly Amendment 1

BACKGROUND

Current law prohibits intentionally causing bodily harm to a person the actor knows or has reason to know is a juror, by reason of any verdict or indictment assented to by the person, without the person's consent. The penalty for committing battery to a juror is a Class H felony.

2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 412

2023 Assembly Bill 412 expands the crime of battery to a juror. The bill prohibits intentionally causing bodily harm or threatening to cause bodily harm to a person the actor knows or has reason to know is a juror, for a reason related to the person's service as a juror, without the person's consent.

The bill also prohibits intentionally causing bodily harm or threatening to cause bodily harm to a person the actor knows or has reason to know is a family member¹ of a juror, for a reason related to the juror's service as a juror, without the person's consent.

The bill reduces the penalty from a Class H felony to a Class I felony.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 increases the penalty from a Class I felony to a Class H felony.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Sortwell offered Assembly Amendment 1 on November 6, 2023. On November 16, 2023, the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety voted to recommend adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's bill history page.

TK:ksm

¹ The bill defines "family member" as a spouse, child, stepchild, foster child, parent, sibling, or grandchild.