



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
STAFF MEMORANDUM**

Memo No. 5

TO: MEMBERS OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE ON ADOPTION DISRUPTION AND DISSOLUTION

FROM: Margit Kelley, Staff Attorney

RE: Revised Recommendation from the Department of Children and Families for Draft WLC: 0031/2, Tracking When an Adopted Child Enters the Child Welfare System

DATE: December 16, 2014

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) has revised its recommendation regarding bill draft WLC: 0031/2, relating to tracking when an adopted child enters the child welfare system.

Rather than creating a separate reporting requirement, DCF recommends consolidating two other statutory reporting requirements with the suggestion relayed in Memo No. 3, as follows:

Renumber and Amend s. 48.981 (9) (a) as (9) (a) (intro.). *Annual reports.* Annually, the department shall prepare and transmit to the governor, and to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2), a report on ~~the~~ all of the following: 1. The status of child abuse and neglect programs and on the status of unborn child abuse programs. The report shall include a full statistical analysis of the child abuse and neglect reports, and the unborn child abuse reports, made through the last calendar year, an evaluation of services offered under this section and their effectiveness, and recommendations for additional legislative and other action to fulfill the purpose of this section. The department shall provide statistical breakdowns by county, if requested by a county.

Create s. 48.981 (9) (a) 2. The number of adoptions under the special needs adoption program granted in the preceding calendar year and the costs to the state for services relating to such adoptions.

Create s. 48.981 (9) (a) 3. The number of children during the preceding calendar year who entered out-of-home care under the placement and care responsibility of a county department or the department under ch. 48 or 938 after finalization of an adoption or guardianship. The report may include information concerning the length of the prior adoption or guardianship, the age of the child at the time of the prior adoption or guardianship, the age at which the child subsequently entered such out-of-home care, the type of agency involved in making the prior adoptive or guardianship placement, and any other factors determined necessary to better understand factors associated with a child entering such out-of-home care after finalization of an adoption or guardianship.

Amend s. 49.32 (1) (a). Except as provided in s. 49.345 (14) (b) and (c), the department shall establish a uniform system of fees for services provided or purchased under this subchapter and ch. 48 by the department, or a county department under s. 46.215, 46.22, or 46.23, except as provided in s. 49.22 (6) and except when, as determined by the department, a fee is administratively unfeasible or would significantly prevent accomplishing the purpose of the service. A county department under s. 46.215, 46.22 or 46.23 shall apply the fees that it collects under this program to cover the cost of those services. ~~The department shall report to the joint committee on finance no later than March 1 of each year on the number of children placed for adoption by the department during the previous year and the costs to the state for services relating to such adoptions.~~

Effective Date. The treatment of section 48.981 (9) (a) 3. takes effect on December 31, 2017.