

1        **AN ACT** *to create* 48.47 (9) of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring citizen review panels  
 2            to report annually to the appropriate legislative standing committees.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE:** This bill was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council’s Study Committee on Public Disclosure and Oversight of Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents.

**Background**

The federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) generally requires states to establish at least three citizen review panels in order to receive CAPTA grant funds. Pursuant to this requirement, 8 citizen review panels currently exist in Wisconsin. CAPTA requires that each citizen review panel report annually and provide a summary of the activities of the panel and recommendations to improve the child protection services systems at the state and local levels. In addition, within six months, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) must submit a written response to the citizen review panel that describes whether or how the state will incorporate the panel’s recommendations, where appropriate, to make measurable progress in improving the state and local child protective systems.

**Bill Draft**

The bill draft requires DCF to transmit to the appropriate legislative standing committees the annual reports from citizen review panels and DCF’s written responses to those reports. In addition, the bill draft requires those committees to conduct public hearings at least annually on the panels’ annual reports and DCF’s written responses.

3            **SECTION 1.** 48.47 (9) of the statutes is created to read:

4            48.47 (9) CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS. (1) The department shall transmit to the appropriate  
 5            standing committees of the legislature under s. 13.172 (3) any annual report sent to the  
 6            department from a citizen review panel established or designated by the department or a

1 county department, and any written response provided by the department to a citizen review  
2 panel.

3 (2) The appropriate standing committees of the legislature shall conduct public hearings  
4 no less often than annually on the annual reports and written responses received under sub.  
5 (1).

**COMMENT:** After reviewing examples of annual reports from citizen review panels in Wisconsin, is this bill draft consistent with the committee's intent? For example, does the committee intend to require the legislature to conduct annual hearings on these reports or, alternatively, require that the annual reports and responses be sent to the legislature but allow a committee chair to determine whether to conduct a hearing on a particular report or response? If the former, does the committee wish to specify that this hearing be held in conjunction with other annual hearings related to child abuse and neglect?

6 **SECTION 2. Effective date.**

7 (1) This act takes effect on the first January 1 after publication.

**NOTE:** This SECTION specifies that the bill draft takes effect on the first January after the bill draft is enacted and published.

8 (END)