
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2021 Wisconsin Act 7 [2021 Senate Bill 62]

Merit Pay Raises for Assistant Public Defenders

Wisconsin law provides a merit-based pay progression plan for assistant public defenders. The pay progression plan consists of 17 steps, with each step equal to 1/17th of the difference between the lowest hourly salary and the highest hourly salary for the salary range for assistant public defenders in the compensation plan. Current law prohibits an assistant public defender from receiving a salary adjustment under the pay progression plan that exceeds 10 percent of his or her base pay during a fiscal year. 2021 Wisconsin Act 7 allows the public defender board, in fiscal year 2021-22 only, to provide merit-based salary adjustments for assistant public defenders under the pay progression plan that exceed 10 percent of the assistant public defender's base pay.

Effective date: March 3, 2021

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