
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2021 Wisconsin Act 90
[2021 Senate Bill 555]

**Requiring Information on
Relinquishing a Newborn in
Human Growth and
Development Courses**

BACKGROUND

Under current law, the parent of a child who is 72 hours old or younger may relinquish custody of the child to a law enforcement officer, emergency medical services practitioner, or hospital staff member. A parent who relinquishes a newborn in this manner may do so anonymously and confidentially, and is immune from civil or criminal liability for any good faith act or omission connected with the relinquishment. [s. [48.195](#), Stats.]

Under current law, school districts are not required to provide instruction in human growth and development. However, if a school district provides instruction in human growth and development, it must ensure it includes instruction in certain subjects. [s. [118.019](#), Stats.]

2021 WISCONSIN ACT 90

Act 90 specifies that if a school district provides instruction in human growth and development, it must ensure the instruction includes an explanation of the process under s. [48.195](#), Stats., for relinquishing a newborn.

Effective date: November 7, 2021

EH:ksm