
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



Prepared by: Steve McCarthy, Senior Staff Attorney

April 20, 2022

2021 Wisconsin Act 222
[2021 Assembly Bill 686]

**Allowing Certain Social Workers
to Treat Substance Use Disorder
as a Specialty**

PREVIOUS LAW

Previous law required an advanced practice social worker or independent social worker to obtain a certification from the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) or satisfy educational and supervised training requirements established by the board in order to treat substance use disorder as a specialty.

Previous law also required an advanced practice social worker or independent social worker to obtain a substance abuse counselor certification in order to represent himself or herself as a substance abuse counselor.

2021 WISCONSIN ACT 222

The act provides that an advanced practice social worker or independent social worker may treat substance use disorder as a specialty without obtaining a certification from DSPS or satisfying educational and supervised training requirements established by the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board.

The act also allows an advanced practice social worker or independent social worker to represent himself or herself as a substance abuse counselor without obtaining a substance abuse counselor certification from DSPS.

Effective date: April 10, 2022

SM:jal