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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

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**2023 Assembly Bill 573**

**Assembly Amendment 1**

### 2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 573

Assembly Bill 573 directs the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish a pilot program to implement virtual behavioral health crisis care services for use by county or municipal law enforcement agencies in the field to connect law enforcement officers who encounter persons in crisis to behavioral health care services.

Specifically, within 90 days of enactment, the bill requires DHS to contract with a private entity to provide virtual behavioral health crisis care services, including related equipment and training that provide law enforcement officers with remote access via two-way audio/video communication to behavioral health care expertise and decision-making support.

The bill further requires DHS to identify counties and municipalities to participate in the pilot program to use the contracted services. Under the bill, to be eligible to participate in the pilot program, a county or municipality must pay 30 percent of the cost for the equipment and services contracted for that county or municipality. No more than 50 percent of program resources may be allocated to counties or municipalities with a population of more than 50,000, and no more than 10 percent of program resources may be allocated to a single county or municipality.

Lastly, DHS must collect and report information to the Joint Committee on Finance on the program's costs and effectiveness by May 1, 2025.

### ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 modifies DHS's role in the pilot, providing 180 days after enactment for DHS to instead obtain and review proposals using its competitive selection process to award contracts to certified county crisis agencies for the purposes of providing virtual behavioral health crisis care services to individuals experiencing a behavioral crisis.

Under the amendment, certified county crisis agencies that are awarded grants may contract with their local law enforcement jurisdictions to provide telehealth equipment and develop virtual behavioral health care. Grants awarded under the competitive selection process may include remote access via two-way audio/video communication, and grant awardees may contract for services with a private entity for the purposes of training, equipment, or decision-making support.

No grant may be awarded unless the certified county crisis agency certifies to DHS that grant funding will pay no more than 75 percent of the cost of providing virtual behavioral health crisis care services.

## **BILL HISTORY**

On November 8, 2023, Representative Donovan offered Assembly Amendment 1. On November 9, 2023, the Assembly Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1, and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 12; Noes, 0.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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