

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 48.837 (7) (title); and *to create* 48.837 (4) (f) and 48.839 (2) (am)
 2 of the statutes; **relating to:** training for prospective adoptive parents.

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

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This draft was prepared for the joint legislative council’s special committee on adoption and termination of parental rights law. The draft requires a court, in a proceeding for the adoption of a child by nonrelatives, to order the person or persons who are petitioning to adopt the child if they have not adopted any prior children, to obtain training on issues that may confront adoptive parents. The training may be provided by a licensed child welfare agency, a licensed private adoption agency, or a state–funded post–adoption resource center. The department is required to promulgate rules on the number of hours of required training, as well as topics to be covered in the training. The proposed adoptive parents must pay for the training.

Under the draft, the same provisions apply to persons who are petitioning to adopt a foreign child.

3 **SECTION 1.** 48.837 (4) (f) of the statutes is created to read:

4 48.837 (4) (f) If the petitioner has not adopted any prior children, shall order the
 5 petitioner to obtain training on issues that may confront adoptive parents, especially those who
 6 are adopting special needs children. The petitioner shall complete the training prior to the
 7 entry of the order granting the adoption. The training shall be provided by a licensed child
 8 welfare agency, a licensed private adoption agency, or a state–funded post–adoption resource
 9 center. The department shall promulgate rules establishing the number of hours of required
 10 training and the topics the training will cover.

NOTE: Requires the court, in a proceeding on a petition for adoption of a child by nonrelatives, to order the petitioner who is a first–time adoptive parent to obtain training on issues that may confront adoptive parents. The training may be provided by a licensed child welfare

agency, a licensed private adoption agency, or a state-funded post-adoption resource center. The department is required to promulgate rules on the number of hours of required training, as well as topics to be covered in the training.

1 **SECTION 2.** 48.837 (7) (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 48.837 (7) (title) INVESTIGATION AND CARE COSTS; TRAINING COSTS. The proposed
3 adoptive parents shall pay the cost of any investigation ordered under sub. (4) (c), according
4 to a fee schedule established by the department based on ability to pay, and shall also, if the
5 adoption is completed, pay the cost of any care provided for the child under sub. (4) (d). The
6 proposed adoptive parents shall pay the costs of training required under sub. (4) (f).

NOTE: Requires the proposed adoptive parents to pay the costs of the required training.

7 **SECTION 3.** 48.839 (2) (am) of the statutes is created to read:

8 48.839 (2) (am) If the guardian has not adopted prior children, the guardian shall, prior
9 to the entry of the order granting the adoption, obtain training on issues that may confront
10 parents who are adopting a child from a foreign country. The training shall be provided by
11 the licensed child welfare agency providing services to the child and to the proposed adoptive
12 parents under sub. (5). The department shall promulgate rules establishing the number of
13 hours of required training and the topics the training will cover. The proposed adoptive parents
14 shall pay the costs of the training.

NOTE: Requires that persons who are petitioning to adopt a foreign child to obtain training on issues which may confront parents who are adopting a child from a foreign country. The training must be provided by the licensed child welfare agency that is providing services to the child and the proposed adoptive parents. The department is required to promulgate rules on the number of hours of required training, as well as topics to be covered in the training. The proposed adoptive parents must also pay for that training.