

1        **AN ACT** *to create* 253.17 of the statutes; **relating to:** a report on information related to  
2        infant morbidity and mortality.

*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 Infant Mortality.

The draft specifies that beginning January 1, 2012, the Department of Health Services (DHS) must implement a system to collect all of the following information:

- The number and rate of infant deaths in each county.
- The causes of infant deaths in each county.
- The number and rate of very premature births in each county.
- The category of care the mother of an infant who was very premature or who died received, as classified under the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists guidelines.
- The name and title of the birth attendant who attended a very premature birth or the birth of an infant who died.
- The race of the infant provided on the birth certificate for very premature births or infants who died.
- Whether the father listed on the birth certificate for very premature births or infants who died was under the age of 18 at the time of the birth.

Beginning on June 30, 2013, DHS must annually report this information collected in the previous calendar year, to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature.

The draft directs DHS to explore whether any of the costs of collecting the data and creating the report may be funded by the medical assistance program.

3        **SECTION 1.** 253.17 of the statutes is created to read:

4        **253.17 Title. (1) DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

1 (a) "Infant" means a child from birth to 12 months of age.

2 (b) "Very premature birth" means less than 32 weeks gestation.

3 (2) (a) Beginning January 1, 2012, the department shall collect all of the following  
4 information:

5 1. The number and rate of infant deaths in each county.

6 2. The causes of infant deaths in each county.

7 3. The number and rate of very premature births in each county.

8 4. The category of care the mother of an infant identified under subd. 1 or 3. received  
9 as classified under the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists guidelines.

10 5. The name and title of the birth attendant who attended births identified in subd. 1.  
11 or 3.

12 6. The race of the infant provided on the birth certificate for births identified in subd.  
13 1 or 3.

14 7. Whether the father listed on the birth certificate for births identified in subd. 1 or 3.  
15 was under the age of 18 at the time of the birth.

16 (b) Beginning June 30, 2013, and on every June 30 after that, the department shall  
17 submit a report that includes all of the information in par. (a) from the previous calendar year  
18 to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature under s. 13.172 (3).

19 (3) The department shall explore whether any of the costs of collecting the data and  
20 creating the report under sub. (2) may be funded by the medical assistance program.

**COMMENT:** Should DHS collect information regarding the number and rate of premature births in each county in addition to or instead of very premature births?

21

(END)