



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0516/P3
MDE:cjs&skw

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

1 **AN ACT to create** 106.361 of the statutes; **relating to:** establishing a hotline for
2 employers interested in hiring individuals with a conviction record.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill is explained in the NOTES provided by the Joint Legislative Council in the bill.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This bill was prepared for the Legislative Council Study Committee on Increasing Offender Employment Opportunities. The bill requires the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to establish a hotline, operating during normal business hours and staffed by DWD employees, to assist employers seeking to employ individuals with a conviction record. The bill requires DWD to provide information and assistance relating to available incentives and programs under state and federal law for employing individuals with a criminal record, including individuals participating in certain work release programs.

3 **SECTION 1.** 106.361 of the statutes is created to read:
4 **106.361 Hotline for employers.** The department shall maintain a toll-free
5 telephone number as a hotline to assist employers seeking to employ individuals

1 with a conviction record, as defined in s. 111.32 (3). The department shall make the
2 hotline available during normal work hours, as determined by the department. The
3 department shall designate hotline staff to provide employers with information and
4 assistance relating to available incentives and programs under state and federal law
5 for employing individuals with a criminal record, including individuals on release
6 under s. 302.27, individuals on work release under s. 303.065, and individuals on
7 Huber release under s. 303.08 or 973.09 (4).

NOTE: This section requires DWD to establish a toll-free hotline and designate staff to respond to callers' inquiries. The bill does not create an appropriation; the Legislature could either create and fund an appropriation in the future, such as in the next budget, or DWD will have to pay for the hotline and staff positions out of its existing agency appropriations.

***NOTE: Is the bill consistent with committee intent?

8

(END)