



**PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION**

1     **AN ACT to amend** 251.06 (1) (c) 1. and 251.06 (1) (c) 3. c. of the statutes; **relating**  
2             **to:** degree requirements for certain local health officers (suggested as remedial  
3             legislation by the Department of Health Services).

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill modifies the degree requirements for a local health officer of a Level III local health department. Local health departments are operated by towns, villages, cities, and counties for certain public health objectives. A Level III local health department must perform all of the duties required of Level I and II local health departments as well as certain additional duties, including public health data collection and administration of an environmental health program. Local health officers administer local health departments; enforce public health statutes, rules, and regulations; administer funds for public health programs; and appoint personnel.

Under current law, in order to be a local health officer of a Level III local health department, an individual must meet one of several combinations of educational, licensure, and experiential requirements. Among these combinations are 1) a master's degree in public health, public administration, health administration, or a similar field plus three years of experience or 2) a master's degree in public health, public administration, health administration, or a similar field plus a license to practice medicine and surgery. The bill modifies these requirements so that an individual is eligible to be a local health officer of a Level III local health department if that individual has a master's *or a doctoral* degree in public health, public administration, health administration, or a similar field plus three years of experience or a license to practice medicine and surgery.

For further information, see the NOTES provided by the Law Revision Committee of the Joint Legislative Council.

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

LAW REVISION COMMITTEE PREFATORY NOTE: This bill is a remedial legislation proposal, requested by the Department of Health Services and introduced by the Law Revision Committee under s. 13.83 (1) (c) 4. and 5., stats. After careful consideration of the various provisions of the bill, the Law Revision Committee has determined that this bill makes minor substantive changes in the statutes, and that these changes are desirable as a matter of public policy.

1           **SECTION 1.** 251.06 (1) (c) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

2           251.06 (1) (c) 1. A master's or doctoral degree in public health, public  
3 administration, health administration or, as defined in rules promulgated by the  
4 department, a similar field and 3 years of experience in a full-time administrative  
5 position in either a public health agency or public health work.

6           **SECTION 2.** 251.06 (1) (c) 3. c. of the statutes is amended to read:

7           251.06 (1) (c) 3. c. A master's or doctoral degree in public health, public  
8 administration, health administration or, as defined in rules promulgated by the  
9 department, a similar field.

NOTE: A person may fulfill some of the qualifications to serve as a local health officer of a Level II local health department by holding a master's degree in public health, public administration, or health administration. SECTIONS 1 and 2 provide that holding a doctoral degree in those fields also fulfills those qualifications.

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(END)