



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

FROM: Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, Deputy Director of Government Affairs

DATE: June 12, 2019

SUBJECT: Support for Assembly Bill 188/Senate Bill 168 – Secured Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth (SRCCCY) Trailer Legislation

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) supports Assembly Bill 188/Senate Bill 168 that makes a number of technical changes to 2017 Wisconsin Act 185 relating to the closure of Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake, and the creation of secured residential care centers for children and youth (SRCCCYs).

2017 Wisconsin Act 185 makes several significant changes to the juvenile corrections system in Wisconsin. WCA was included in discussions on this legislation early on in the process. Given the magnitude of the changes proposed to the juvenile corrections system, all of us involved in the discussions knew that it was likely we would need to come back this session with a technical clean-up bill, and perhaps a few nontechnical changes as well. Assembly Bill 188 represents technical changes requested by counties, legislators, and the administration.

Assembly Bill 188/Senate Bill 168 makes the following changes to 2017 Wisconsin Act 185:

- Provides counties with a three-month extension to the timeline for submitting grant applications and an additional six months to construct a SRCCCY.
- Clarifies that the 100% grant funding and the operating loss program applies to a portion of any facility that is designed and constructed to hold female juveniles, not a female-only facility.
- Clarifies that the youth aids bonus payment applies to counties that serve juveniles from more than one county, and not just to a county that operates a joint SRCCCY.
- Modifies the cap on the number of juveniles that can be served in a grandfathered juvenile detention program.

- Removes the requirement that counties submit their annual budgets to the Department of Corrections.
- Clarifies the authorization process for admissions to the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center.
- Clarifies that a correctional placement places a juvenile under the supervision of the county or the Department of Corrections, and that the county identifies the SRCCCY to be used for the placement.
- Removes language requiring plans and specifications for the site and the design and construction of the proposed SRCCCY be approved by the Department of Corrections before the Juvenile Corrections Grant Committee can recommend approval of a grant application.

The changes included in this bill reflect several months of discussion between counties, the bill authors, and the administration and are necessary for counties to move forward on their grant applications.

WCA respectfully requests your support for Assembly Bill 188/Senate Bill 168.

Thank you for considering our comments.