



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2007 Wisconsin Act 113 [2007 Assembly Bill 173]	Council on Mental Health
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Act 113 modifies the membership requirements for persons serving on the state's Council on Mental Health.

The law prior to Act 113 specified that the Council on Mental Health in the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) was to consist of 15 members nominated by the Secretary of DHFS and appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. That prior law specified the types of persons to serve on the council.

Act 113 eliminates the specifications on types of members of the Council on Mental Health set forth in the prior law and instead substitutes a reference to the portion of federal law relating to grants for mental health services. That federal law states that one condition for receiving the grant funds is that the state establish and maintain a state mental health planning council with specified types of members. Under the federal law referenced in Act 113, the council must include representatives of: (1) the principal state agencies dealing with specified issues; (2) public and private entities concerned with the need, planning, operation, funding, and use of mental health services and related support services; (3) adults with serious mental illnesses who are receiving or have received services; and (4) the families of those adults or families of children with emotional disturbance. The federal law further states that the ratio of parents of children with a serious emotional disturbance to other members of the council must be sufficient to provide adequate representation of those children in the council's deliberations. In addition, at least 50% of the members of the council must be individuals who are not state employees or providers of mental health services. In addition to referencing this federal law, Act 113 states that the Council on Mental Health must be not fewer than 21 nor more than 25 members nominated by the Secretary of DHFS and appointed by the Governor for three-year terms.

Effective Date: April 2, 2008.

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RNS:jb;ksm

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.