



State of Wisconsin
2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1977/1
MJW:cjs

2025 SENATE BILL 55

February 21, 2025 - Introduced by Senators WIMBERGER, FEYEN, NASS and TOMCZYK, cosponsored by Representatives O'CONNOR, TUSLER, MURPHY, B. JACOBSON, DONOVAN, FRANKLIN, MOSES, MAXEY, KREIBICH, DITTRICH, ALLEN, BEHNKE, KNODL, PENTERMAN, MELOTIK and MURSAU. Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 165.252 of the statutes; **relating to:** prohibiting the
2 Department of Justice from using the legal services of nongovernmental
3 employees.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill prohibits the Department of Justice from using the legal services of any person who is not a state employee or federal employee or agent to assist in the investigation or prosecution of any civil or criminal cause or matter unless DOJ uses a specific process under current law for contracting for legal services on a contingent fee basis or that person is a legal intern who earns no more than \$10,000 annually from their internship employer.

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:

4 **SECTION 1.** 165.252 of the statutes is created to read:
5 **165.252 Nongovernmental employees.** (1) Except as provided under sub.

SENATE BILL 55**SECTION 1**

1 (2) or s. 20.9305 (2), the department of justice may not use the legal services of any
2 person who is not a state employee or federal employee or agent to assist in the
3 investigation or prosecution of any civil or criminal cause or matter.

4 **(2)** The department of justice may use the legal services of a legal intern who
5 is not a state employee or federal employee or agent if the person is paid no more
6 than \$10,000 per year by the person's internship employer.

7 **(END)**