
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



Memo published: June 30, 2021

Contact: Anne Sappenfield, Director

2021 Assembly Bill 407

Assembly Amendment 1

2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 407

Under **current statutes**, the chief clerk and the sergeant at arms of each house must certify to the Department of Administration (DOA) the payrolls for legislative employees in their respective houses. The certifications must be approved as provided by the rules of each house.

Assembly Bill 407 creates the Legislative Human Resources Office (LHRO) as a legislative service agency.¹ Under the bill, LHRO:

- Is headed by a director.
- Shall be strictly nonpartisan.
- Shall at all times observe the confidential nature of records, requests, advice, complaints, reviews, investigations, disciplinary actions, and other information in its possession relating to human resources matters.

The bill provides that LHRO shall:

- Provide human resources services to the legislative branch, as directed by the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization (JCLO).
- Establish a formal review process to review and investigate allegations of harassment, discrimination, retaliations, violence, or bullying by legislators, legislative employees, and legislative service agency employees. LHRO must investigate all such allegations, unless the director designates another person or entity to do so.
- Certify to DOA payroll for legislative service agency employees.

Under the bill, the director shall:

- Report to JCLO.
- Direct the operations of the staff.
- Employ, train, and supervise the personnel assigned to the director.
- Supervise all expenditures of LHRO.
- Manage reviews and investigations of the formal complaint process for allegations of harassment, discrimination, retaliations, violence, or bullying. Upon completion, the director must report the findings to the appropriate legislative leader or employee supervisor.
- On a periodic basis, recommend to JCLO improvements to human resources services and programs.

¹ LHRO was initially created through a JCLO mail ballot, dated February 25, 2020.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 deletes the language in the bill regarding certifying payroll to DOA. Therefore, under the amendment, the current statute under which the chief clerk and the sergeant at arms of each house must certify to DOA the payrolls for legislative employees remains in effect. However, per the JCLO mail ballot establishing LHRO, LHRO processes payroll and benefits for each house and for the legislative service agencies.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Vos on June 29, 2021. On that date, the Assembly adopted the amendment and passed the bill, as amended, on voice votes.

AS:ksm