



2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 378

August 11, 2023 - Introduced by Representatives DITTRICH, RETTINGER, CALLAHAN, MAGNAFICI, BINSFELD, O'CONNOR, GUNDRUM, GUSTAFSON, MAXEY, BODDEN, PENTERMAN, ARMSTRONG, BRANDTJEN, TUSLER, S. JOHNSON, SAPIK, MACCO, ROZAR, GREEN, SCHMIDT, ALLEN, BEHNKE, DUCHOW, HURD, TITTL, NEDWESKI, SCHRAA, WICHGERS, EDMING, SORTWELL, DONOVAN and MURPHY, cosponsored by Senators KNODL, QUINN, MARKLEIN, HUTTON and TOMCZYK. Referred to Committee on Colleges and Universities.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1 **AN ACT to amend** 36.12 (1) and 38.23 (1); and **to create** 36.25 (58) and 38.12 (15)
2 of the statutes; **relating to:** designating University of Wisconsin and technical
3 college sports and athletic teams based on the sex of the participants.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires each University of Wisconsin institution and technical college that operates or sponsors an intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic team or sport to designate the athletic team or sport as falling into one of three categories based on the sex of the participating students. The three categories are 1) participants who are males or men; 2) participants who are females or women; and 3) coed or participants of both sexes. The bill defines “sex” as the sex determined by a physician at birth and reflected on the birth certificate. The bill also requires a UW institution or technical college to prohibit a male student from participating on an athletic team or in a sport designated for females or women. Finally, the bill requires the UW institution or technical college to notify students if the institution or technical college intends to change a designation for an athletic team or sport.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** 36.12 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1 36.12 (1) No Except as provided in s. 36.25 (58), no student may be denied
2 admission to, participation in or the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any
3 service, program, course or facility of the system or its institutions because of the
4 student's race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, ancestry, age,
5 sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital status or parental status.

6 **SECTION 2.** 36.25 (58) of the statutes is created to read:

7 36.25 (58) INTERCOLLEGIATE OR INTRAMURAL SPORTS; DESIGNATION AS SINGLE SEX
8 OR COED. (a) In this subsection, "sex" means the sex determined by a physician at
9 birth and reflected on the birth certificate.

10 (b) An institution that operates or sponsors an intercollegiate, intramural, or
11 club athletic team or sport shall do all of the following:

12 1. Expressly designate the athletic team or sport as one of the following based
13 on the sex of the participating students:

14 a. Males or men.

15 b. Females or women.

16 c. Coed or mixed-sex.

17 2. Prohibit students of the male sex from participating on an athletic team or
18 in a sport that is designated for females or women under subd. 1.

19 3. If the institution intends to change the designation of an athletic team or
20 sport under subd. 1., provide written notification of the change to students who are
21 eligible under both the previous and current designation to participate in the sport
22 or on the athletic team.

23 (c) 1. A student of the female sex who is deprived of the opportunity to
24 participate in a sport or on an athletic team or who suffers any direct or indirect harm

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1 as the result of a violation of par. (b) 2. may bring a cause of action against the
2 institution for injunctive relief, damages, and any other relief available under law.

3 2. A student of the female sex who is subject to retaliation or other adverse
4 action by an institution or athletic association or organization, as a result of
5 reporting a violation of par. (b) 2. to an employee or representative of the institution
6 or athletic association or organization or to any state or federal agency with oversight
7 over the institution, may bring a cause of action against the institution or athletic
8 association or organization for injunctive relief, damages, and any other relief
9 available under law.

10 3. An institution that suffers any direct or indirect harm by a licensing or
11 accrediting organization or an athletic association or organization as a result of
12 compliance with par. (b) 2. may bring a cause of action against the licensing or
13 accrediting organization or the athletic association or organization for injunctive
14 relief, damages, and any other relief available under law.

15 **SECTION 3.** 38.12 (15) of the statutes is created to read:

16 38.12 (15) INTERCOLLEGIATE OR INTRAMURAL SPORTS; DESIGNATION AS SINGLE SEX
17 OR COED. (a) In this subsection, "sex" means the sex determined by a physician at
18 birth and reflected on the birth certificate.

19 (b) A district board that operates or sponsors an intercollegiate, intramural, or
20 club athletic team or sport shall do all of the following:

21 1. Expressly designate the athletic team or sport as one of the following based
22 on the sex of the participating students:

23 a. Males or men.

24 b. Females or women.

25 c. Coed or mixed-sex.

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1 2. Prohibit students of the male sex from participating on an athletic team or
2 in a sport that is designated for females or women under subd. 1.

3 3. If the district board intends to change the designation of an athletic team or
4 sport under subd. 1., provide written notification of the change to students who are
5 eligible under both the previous and current designation to participate in the sport
6 or on the athletic team.

7 (c) 1. A student of the female sex who is deprived of the opportunity to
8 participate in a sport or on an athletic team or who suffers any direct or indirect harm
9 as the result of a violation of par. (b) 2. may bring a cause of action against the district
10 board for injunctive relief, damages, and any other relief available under law.

11 2. A student of the female sex who is subject to retaliation or other adverse
12 action by a district board or athletic association or organization, as a result of
13 reporting a violation of par. (b) 2. to an employee or representative of the district
14 board or athletic association or organization or to any state or federal agency with
15 oversight over the district board, may bring a cause of action against the district
16 board or athletic association or organization for injunctive relief, damages, and any
17 other relief available under law.

18 3. A district board that suffers any direct or indirect harm by a governmental
19 entity, licensing or accrediting organization, or athletic association or organization
20 as a result of compliance with par. (b) 2. may bring a cause of action against the
21 governmental entity, licensing or accrediting organization, or athletic association or
22 organization for injunctive relief, damages, and any other relief available under law.

23 **SECTION 4.** 38.23 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 38.23 (1) ~~No~~ Except as provided in s. 38.12 (15), no student may be denied
25 admission to, participation in or the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any

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1 service, program, course or facility of the board or any district because of the
2 student's race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, ancestry, age,
3 sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital status or parental status.

4 **SECTION 5. Initial applicability.**

5 (1) This act first applies in the first semester or session beginning after the
6 effective date of this subsection.

7 (END)