

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 15, 2021

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Gov. Evers Signs “Ethan’s Law”

MADISON — Gov. Evers today signed Senate Bill 24, now 2021 Wisconsin Act 72, also known as “Ethan’s Law.” This bill makes several changes to expand the circumstances that generally prohibit a court from placing a child in an out-of-home placement with a person who has previously been convicted of, has pleaded no contest to, or has had a charge dismissed or amended as a result of a plea agreement for certain crimes against a child, as well as to prohibit licensed entities from employing, contracting with, or housing any person or employee that has been charged with certain crimes against a child.

“Ethan's Law” is named in memory of 7-year-old Ethan Hauschultz. Ethan was tragically fatally beaten in 2018 after having been placed in the home of a distant relative in Manitowoc County who had previously pleaded no contest to a felony child abuse charge. The governor was joined today by Ethan's family at a private signing ceremony.

“No kid should ever have to experience what Ethan went through,” said Gov. Evers. “This bill is an important step in helping protect our kids, keep them safe, and ensure that every kid has the opportunity to lead a happy, healthy life.”

[Senate Bill 24](#), now 2021 Wisconsin Act 72:

- Expands the circumstances in which a court is generally prohibited from out-of-home placement of a child with a person who has previously been convicted of, has pleaded no contest to, or has had a charge dismissed or amended as a result of a plea agreement for certain crimes against a child; and
- Prohibits licensed entities from employing, contracting with, or housing any person or employee that has been charged with certain crimes against a child.

In addition to Senate Bill 24, Gov. Evers also signed Senate Bill 160, now 2021 Wisconsin Act 73.

[Senate Bill 160](#), now 2021 Wisconsin Act 73:

- Requires insurers and other persons regulated by the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance to conduct a risk assessment of any reasonably foreseeable threats, develop an information security program, and report cybersecurity events to protect nonpublic information in their possession that can be used to materially harm a Wisconsin resident.

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