



Friday, October 13, 2017



# "Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

**IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED!**

**CALL FOR LEGISLATIVE CO-SPONSORS**

**DRAFT BILL LRB-2650/1**

**WLA name: "Public Library Data and Technology Training Bill"**

**Seeking Legislative Co-Sponsors in Senate and Assembly**

**Deadline: NOON Tuesday, October 17, 2017**

Draft bill LRB-2650/1 is circulating among legislators to gather co-sponsors from both parties in both the Senate and Assembly. Its co-authors are 10<sup>th</sup> District Senator Sheila Harsdorf (R-River Falls) and 35<sup>th</sup> District Representative Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma).



**BACKGROUND:** You'll recall that WLA had supported a DPI budget request for a statutory language change to allow public libraries as well as schools to make use of appropriations for **WISEdash and WISEdata information systems**. This was **not** included in the Governor's budget proposal last February. Though there was no opposition from Joint Finance Committee members on either side of the aisle, Rep. Felzkowski was unable to add it to the JFC version of the budget due to a procedural issue. **LRB-2650/1** combines the WISEdash/WISE data proposal with a second initiative to open **TEACH technology block grants** to rural public libraries, consortia of eligible public libraries and eligible public library systems. DPI/DLT, the DOA TEACH Program, and WLA support this bill.

**BILL SUMMARY (talking points for legislators)** As detailed in Rep. Felzkowski's cover letter to her colleagues, this bill has two components.

- **The first component concerns WISEdata and WISEdash information systems.** WISEdata deals mainly with how DPI gathers data, and makes those processes as efficient and secure as possible. Efficiency often requires making

software “talk” to each other on the back end through interoperability. **WISEdash** deals mainly with how DPI *uses* data, including analysis, reporting, displaying, and teaching people to use it effectively in their decision-making.

- The Division for Libraries and Technology in the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) currently provides K-12 schools with these systems.
  - The bill allows DPI flexibility to provide similar services for public libraries by giving them access to these programs. While the tools for public libraries may not be the same, the goal to process data more efficiently and allow for easier data utilization, without a loss in security, remains the same.
- **The second component concerns current eligibility for TEACH grants.**
    - TEACH grants are currently targeted to small and rural schools.
    - DPI seeks to allow rural and small libraries of a similar classification to be eligible to apply.
  - **Neither of components require additional funding.**

## **ACTION NEEDED: ASK YOUR LEGISLATORS TO CO-SPONSOR AND SUPPORT LRB-2650/1**

**Deadline: NOON Tuesday, October 17, 2017**

**Draft bill LRB-2650/1** co-authored by [Senator Sheila Harsdorf](#) (R-River Falls) and [Representative Mary Felzkowski](#) (R-Irma) is being circulated for legislative co-sponsors. The draft will be given separate Senate and Assembly bill numbers once co-sponsors are gathered and it is sent to the clerk in each house.

**TAKE ACTION!**

**A request for co-sponsors was sent to all members of the legislature by Rep. Felzkowski on October 11.**

**Deadline for co-sponsors to sign onto the bill is noon Tuesday, October 17.**

### **WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO DO IT**

- [VERIFY YOUR SENATOR AND ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFO HERE](#) by clicking on the map or typing your street address into the search box in the upper right hand corner. When the info box appears, clicking on a legislator's name will take you to his/her directory page where you will find phone numbers. Staff member names are also listed. URL: <http://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/>
- **CONTACT YOUR SENATOR AND ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE** by phone **IMMEDIATELY**. (Don't delay! They need time to process and decide.)
  - **IDENTIFY YOURSELF** to the staff member who answers as a voter who lives in the legislator's district, as a WLA member and/or library professional, trustee, or library supporter. Pay attention to the staff member's name.
  - **IDENTIFY THE PROPOSED BILL:** *"I'm calling because I support **draft bill LRB-2650/1** being circulated by Representative Felzkowski and Senator Harsdorf ..."*
  - **MAKE THE ASK:** *"I'm asking that Senator [insert name here] join Senator Harsdorf as a co-sponsor in support of **draft bill LRB-2650/1**...." OR "I'm*

*asking that Representative [insert name here] join Representative Felzkowski as co-sponsor in support of **draft bill LRB-2650/1.**"*

- **Do not expect an immediate answer.** Acknowledge that the staff member will need to talk to the legislator before venturing a yes or no.
  - **Make follow up communication easy.** Ask the staff member whether you can call again on Monday to learn whether the legislator will be a co-sponsor. (Some staff may then offer to call you back with an answer.)
  - **Take note of the staff member's name** for future follow up and say thank you. Staff members are listed on the legislators' home pages at [Legis.Wisconsin.Gov](http://Legis.Wisconsin.Gov)
  - **USE THE BILL SUMMARY TALKING POINTS** above as needed. They closely parallel the information sent to legislators in the request for co-sponsor memo. **The main objective is to indicate your support for this bill and ask the legislator to co-sponsor. This isn't a heavy lift calling for strong persuasion, but you'll have the talking points if necessary.**
- **FOLLOW UP on Tuesday morning, October 17,** to confirm the legislator is on board as a co-sponsor if you haven't received word since you called.
  - **SEND A HAND WRITTEN THANK YOU NOTE** to the legislator once confirmation is received. Send a second note to the staff member who helped facilitate. (Staff seldom get happy mail; you will be remembered!)
  - **NOTIFY LD&L Co-Chairs** Connie [cmeyer@bridgeslibrarysystem.org](mailto:cmeyer@bridgeslibrarysystem.org) and Kathy [klpletcher@gmail.com](mailto:klpletcher@gmail.com) of confirmation so WLA can keep track of sponsors.

**BONUS POINTS:** The bill's first hearing will likely be October 26 before the huge [Assembly Committee on Education](#). **If your Assembly Representative is on this committee, your phone call counts double!** Because you'll be gaining more bipartisan co-sponsors as well as raising the interest in/understanding of our bill's importance among Education Committee members before the LD&L team testifies at the hearing!

**IS AN EMAIL REQUEST OK AS AN ALTERNATIVE?** Yes. You may use the information and guidelines above to send an email request to the legislator's office email address which is usually monitored by a staff member. HOWEVER, given the tight turnaround, starting with a phone call not only mitigates delay, but also provides a better relationship building opportunity with those always-important staff members. Use your judgment if you already have an established relationship with a legislative staff member and prefer to go directly to that person with the ask.

**An excellent show of bi-partisan support for this bill will further legislative relationships as well as well as further confirming WLA's track record as a reliable non-partisan partner.**

WLA members and library supporters will be asked to contact their legislators several times during various steps in [THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS](#) as this bill moves forward through committee review to floor action.

**Don't Miss These Great Fall Conference Programs!**

## WLA Fall Conference, Kalahari Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells!

### Wednesday, October 18 - 1:20-2:05 "It's All About the Pen!" ...and Relationships

**Speakers:** Steve Conway & Nick Dimassis

Relationships turn requests into legislation, and then into bills that the governor signs: it's all about the pen. Come hear how Wisconsin's library advocates are successfully building relationships with their legislators so they know how libraries are bringing value to their constituents. There is lots of exciting relationship-building going on – come get ideas and ask questions!

### Thursday, October 19 - 1:20-2:05 "Simple, Effective Ways to Create a Partnership with Your Local Workforce Development Centers"

**Speakers:** Cate Zeuske, Deputy Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Administration; David Anderson, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development; and Mark E. Mundi, Racine County Workforce Solutions Manager.

Libraries have long provided valuable support to people seeking to improve their career skills, change careers, and apply for jobs. Let's take it to the next level by partnering with Workforce Development Boards/Centers to have greater impact! Our speakers will share stories of successful partnerships, offer strategies to initiate partnerships, and provide tips on avoiding political missteps.

**Awards & Honors Reception, Thursday, October 19 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM.** WLA Government Relations Advisor Steve Conway will be honored with a Special Service Award.

#### 2017 LD&L Co-Chairs:

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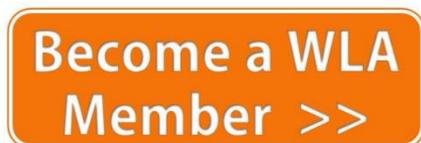
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## About the WLA...

The Wisconsin Library Association engages, inspires and advocates for library workers and supporters to improve and promote library services for the people of Wisconsin.

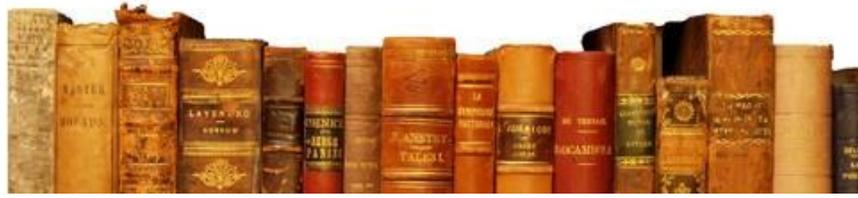
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