



Thursday, January 18, 2018



"Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

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AB 572/SB 491 UPDATE Public Library Data and Technology Training Bill Passes Assembly on January 16

The **Public Library Data and Technology Training Bill** ([2017 Assembly Bill 572](#) and [2017 Senate Bill 491](#)) passed the Assembly on a unanimous roll call vote on January 16! The bill was immediately messaged to the Senate where it awaits scheduling for floor session consideration.

Basic Facts: AB 572/SB491 seeks no additional funding. It adds language to expand the use of the DPI WISEdata and WISEdash information system appropriations beyond K-12 schools to include applications of potential benefit to individual public libraries and Wisconsin's 16 regional public library systems. It also opens TEACH block grants, which are now available through the Department of Administration to small and rural schools, to their counterparts in education: small and rural libraries. DPI has assured that there is adequate capacity in both programs to include libraries without negatively impacting K-12 schools.

The League of Municipalities and Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WiRSA) have both joined the Wisconsin Library Association in [officially supporting this legislation](#).

The twin bills were co-authored by Representatives [Felzkowski](#) and Senator Harsdorf who was replaced by Senator [Testin](#) as co-author on December 18 after

Harsdorf became Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Co-sponsors include Senators [Olsen](#) and [Tiffany](#); Representatives [Swearingen](#), [Loudenbeck](#), [Horlacher](#), [Mursau](#), [Novak](#), [Ripp](#), [Skowronski](#), [Tranel](#), [Tusler](#), [Kooyenga](#), [Considine](#), [Shankland](#) and [Barca](#).



After a public hearing on November 16, AB572 was recommended for passage on January 4 by the Assembly [Committee on Rural Development and Mining](#) in a 10-0 vote with Reps. Novak and R. Brooks excused.

After a public hearing on December 19, SB491 was unanimously recommended for passage on December 21 by the Senate [Committee on Education](#) in a 7-0 vote via paper ballot.

Photo: Matt Wimmer from Sen. Testin's staff and WLA hearing testimony team Jean Anderson, Heather Johnson, Connie Meyer and Kathy Klager waiting their turn at the December 21 Senate Education Committee hearing.

Thank you notes requested!



WLA has made *handwritten thank you notes* its "brand" in the legislature. During the past year, as WLA LD&L members visited Senate and Assembly offices for strategic conversations, we have witnessed happy legislators and staff members holding a fist full of WLA envelopes and grinning broadly. It really makes a difference to our relationship building!

Please snail mail your thanks to your Assembly Representative for supporting AB 572. There were only "yes" votes on the Assembly floor on January 16! **BONUS POINTS** if you see your Assembly Representative listed either among the bill's co-sponsors above or as members of the [Committee on Rural Development and Mining](#), and mention their extra lift to advance the bill thus far.

Members with last names A-L: P.O. Box 8952, Madison WI 53708-8952

Members with last names M-Z: P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708-8953

Library Legislative Day is February 20, 2018 REGISTER TODAY!



[Register Online for Library Legislative Day](#) or download the [PDF](#) and send to WLA! [GO HERE](#) for information about hotel reservations at the Madison Concourse Hotel where a block of rooms is being held until January 22.

The program agenda begins at 8:30 AM with registration and continental breakfast. A briefing session and presentation of Library Champion Awards follows between 9:00 and 10:30 AM, with two 30 minute blocks of morning appointments between 11:00 and noon, lunch on your own, and four 30-minute afternoon appointment blocks between 1:30

and 3:30 PM. **As always, the appointments will be scheduled for attendees by the Legislative Day Committee!** WLA has made enormous strides in relationship building and legislative achievements since 2015.

NOTE: Assembly District 42 (formerly Keith Ripp) and Senate District 1 (formerly Frank Lasee) are Vacant Seats until the November 2018 election. The offices will still be staffed on Legislative Day to handle district constituent business and should be visited. See below for three new legislators chosen in the recent special election.

Special Legislative Elections Fill Three Vacancies **Senate District 10 and Assembly Districts 58 and 66 have new legislators as of January 16 – Send your congratulations!**



A special election was held January 16 to fill three vacant legislative seats. **WLA members who live in the new legislators' districts are encouraged to write notes of welcome and congratulations.** Introduce yourself and your library, invite them to stop by for a visit and let them know of available library space to hold in-district office hours or listening sessions. **Constituents registering for Library Legislative Day should note the changes.**

Patty Schachtner (D-Somerset) will represent Senate District 10 ([parts of Burnett, Polk, St. Croix, Pierce and Dunn counties](#)) where former Senator Sheila Harsdorf (SD10) was appointed Secretary of DATCP. **Send mail to Senator Schachtner at P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707.**

Rick Gundrum (R-Slinger) will represent Assembly District 58 ([within Washington County](#)) formerly served by the late Bob Gannon. **Send mail to Rep. Gundrum at P.O. Box 8951, Madison, WI 53708.**

Greta Neubauer (D-Racine) will represent Assembly District 66 ([within the City of Racine](#)), the seat formerly held by Cory Mason who is now Mayor of Racine. **Send mail to Rep. Neubauer at P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708.**

Concluding Thought



Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill. They are engines of change, windows on the world, "lighthouses erected in the sea of time."

Barbara W. Tuchman

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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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