

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Senator Chris Larson

RE: Eliminating the Open Records Law Retention Exception for the Legislature

DATE: January 3, 2019

In an effort to promote transparency in government, and prevent corruption, I'm introducing a bill that would make open records law retention standards apply to members of the legislature.

Members of the Wisconsin Legislature are currently required to furnish office records to the public upon receiving a reasonable request for information. However, unlike staff at state agencies, members of the legislature are not required to keep e-mails and other office records for a defined amount of time. This bill would remove that exemption and make retention of office records mandatory for legislators and their staff.

See the LRB analysis below for more details.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, **please respond to this email or contact Senator Larson's office at 266-7505 by Noon on January 21, 2019.**

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, the Public Records Board supervises the state's public records management and preservation programs and may set retention schedules for public records. However, the records and correspondence of any member of the legislature are excluded from the definition of "public records" for public records retention purposes. This bill eliminates that exclusion.

For further information see the **state** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

