

2019 DRAFTING REQUEST

Bill

For: Luther Olsen (608) 266-0751

Drafter: fknepp

By: Jenna

Secondary Drafters:

Date: 9/3/2019

May Contact:

Same as LRB: -4065

Submit via email: YES  
Requester's email: Sen.Olsen@legis.wisconsin.gov  
Carbon copy (CC) to: fern.knepp@legis.wisconsin.gov  
krista.pleviak@legis.wisconsin.gov

Pre Topic:

No specific pre topic given

Topic:

Require cursive in elementary school

Instructions:

Senate companion to LRB-4065

Drafting History:

<u>Vers.</u>	<u>Drafted</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Jacketed</u>	<u>Required</u>
/1	fknepp 9/3/2019		mbarman 9/3/2019	mbarman 9/3/2019	State S&L

FE Sent For: *2 at intro* <END>

## Knepp, Fern

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**From:** Zantow, Jenna  
**Sent:** Friday, August 30, 2019 12:01 PM  
**To:** Knepp, Fern  
**Subject:** FW: Co-Sponsorship of LRB 4065, relating to incorporating cursive writing into the state model English language arts standards and requiring cursive writing in elementary grades  
**Attachments:** 19-4065\_1.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Fern—

Can we please request the Senate companion bill for LRB 4065 when you get a chance?

Thanks!

-Jenna

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**From:** Rep.Thiesfeldt <Rep.Thiesfeldt@legis.wisconsin.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2019 10:38 AM  
**To:** \*Legislative All Assembly <ALLASM@legis.wisconsin.gov>; \*Legislative All Senate <ALLSEN@legis.wisconsin.gov>  
**Subject:** Co-Sponsorship of LRB 4065, relating to incorporating cursive writing into the state model English language arts standards and requiring cursive writing in elementary grades

### CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

**To:** All Legislators

**From:** Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt  
Senator Luther Olsen  
Senator LaTonya Johnson

**RE:** Co-sponsorship of LRB-4065/1, relating to: incorporating cursive writing into the state model English language arts standards and requiring cursive writing in elementary grades.

**Deadline:** **Tuesday, September 3rd**

Having the ability to write in cursive can greatly benefit the students of Wisconsin. Cursive writing has many advantages.

Cursive writing actually trains the brain to integrate visual and tactile information and fine motor dexterity. Printing and typing do not stimulate the synchronicity between the right and left hemispheres of the brain, but cursive does. Cursive requires different muscles and a different part of the brain than regular writing, and it can help grade students develop their motor skills.

Many students with learning disabilities, specifically dyslexia, can struggle with writing in print. Studies have shown cursive may come more natural to these students and can improve learning outcomes. Some researchers maintain it may even be a path to treating dyslexia.

In addition to the numerous learning and brain development benefits, knowing how to read and write in cursive has historical significance as well. Many historical documents with great importance are only written in cursive.

Fifteen states now require students to be proficient in cursive. The most recent state to pass legislation regarding cursive proficiency, Ohio, did so in a very bipartisan manner. The legislation passed the State House of Representatives 90-4 and the State Senate 27-2.

Please join us in co-sponsoring this bill that is a common sense way to benefit the students of Wisconsin.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation and its Senate companion, please contact Rep. Thiesfeldt's office or Senator Olsen's office by Tuesday, September 3rd. **You will be added to both the Assembly and Senate versions unless otherwise requested.**

#### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill requires the state superintendent of public instruction to incorporate cursive writing into the model academic standards for English language arts. This bill also requires a school board, independent charter school, and private school participating in a parental choice program to include cursive writing in its respective curriculum for the elementary grades. Specifically, each elementary school curriculum must include the objective that pupils be able to write legibly in cursive by the end of fifth grade.



State of Wisconsin  
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

- 4170 / 1  
LRB-4065/1  
FFK:kjf  
*Create  
per  
Companion*

**2019 BILL**

1     **AN ACT to create** 115.28 (56), 118.40 (2r) (b) 2. L., 118.40 (2x) (b) 2. L., 118.60 (2)  
2           (a) 9., 119.23 (2) (a) 9. and 121.02 (1) (k) 4. of the statutes; **relating to:**  
3           incorporating cursive writing into the state model English language arts  
4           standards and requiring cursive writing in elementary grades.

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill requires the state superintendent of public instruction to incorporate cursive writing into the model academic standards for English language arts. This bill also requires a school board, independent charter school, and private school participating in a parental choice program to include cursive writing in its respective curriculum for the elementary grades. Specifically, each elementary school curriculum must include the objective that pupils be able to write legibly in cursive by the end of fifth grade.

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

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

5           **SECTION 1.** 115.28 (56) of the statutes is created to read:

**BILL****SECTION 1**

1           115.28 **(56)** ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS. Incorporate cursive writing  
2 into the model academic standards for English language arts.

3           **SECTION 2.** 118.40 (2r) (b) 2. L. of the statutes is created to read:

4           118.40 **(2r)** (b) 2. L. If the contract is for the operation of a charter school that  
5 includes the elementary grades, a requirement that the charter school's curriculum  
6 include the academic objective in s. 121.02 (1) (k) 4.

7           **SECTION 3.** 118.40 (2x) (b) 2. L. of the statutes is created to read:

8           118.40 **(2x)** (b) 2. L. If the contract is for the operation of a charter school that  
9 includes the elementary grades, a requirement that the charter school's curriculum  
10 include the academic objective in s. 121.02 (1) (k) 4.

11          **SECTION 4.** 118.60 (2) (a) 9. of the statutes is created to read:

12          118.60 **(2)** (a) 9. If the private school operates elementary grades, a  
13 requirement that the private school's curriculum include the academic objective in  
14 s. 121.02 (1) (k) 4.

15          **SECTION 5.** 119.23 (2) (a) 9. of the statutes is created to read:

16          119.23 **(2)** (a) 9. If the private school operates elementary grades, a  
17 requirement that the private school's curriculum include the academic objective in  
18 s. 121.02 (1) (k) 4.

19          **SECTION 6.** 121.02 (1) (k) 4. of the statutes is created to read:

20          121.02 **(1)** (k) 4. By July 1, 2020, include in a language arts curriculum plan  
21 under this paragraph the academic objective that pupils be able to write legibly in  
22 cursive by the end of grade 5. This subdivision does not apply to union high school  
23 districts.

24          **SECTION 7. Initial applicability.**



**Barman, Mike**

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**From:** LRB.Legal  
**To:** Sen.Olsen  
**Subject:** Draft review: LRB -4170/1  
**Attachments:** 19-4170/1

**State of Wisconsin - Legislative Reference Bureau  
One East Main Street - Suite 200 - Madison**

**The attached draft was prepared at your request. Please review it carefully to ensure that it satisfies your intent.** If you have any questions concerning the draft or would like to have it redrafted, please contact Fern Knepp, Senior Legislative Attorney, at (608) 504-5810, at [fern.knepp@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:fern.knepp@legis.wisconsin.gov), or at One East Main Street, Suite 200.

**We will jacket this draft for introduction in the Senate.**

If the last paragraph of the analysis states that a fiscal estimate will be prepared, the LRB will submit a request to DOA when the draft is introduced. You may obtain a fiscal estimate on the draft prior to introduction by contacting our program assistants at [LRB.Legal@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:LRB.Legal@legis.wisconsin.gov) or at (608) 266-3561. If you requested a fiscal estimate on an earlier version of this draft and would like to obtain a fiscal estimate on the current version before it is introduced, you will need to request a revised fiscal estimate from our program assistants.

**Please call our program assistants at (608) 266-3561 if you have any questions regarding this email.**