



1997 SENATE BILL 47

January 29, 1997 - Introduced by Senators WELCH, HUELSMAN and DRZEWIECKI, cosponsored by Representatives DOBYNS, FREESE, HUEBSCH, BRANDEMUEHL, SERATTI, OLSEN, GOETSCH, HUBER, POWERS, OTT and VRAKAS. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 19.32 (2); and *to create* 16.61 (2) (b) 7., 19.32 (4), 19.35 (1m)
2 and 19.35 (3) (g) of the statutes; **relating to:** production by the state and local
3 governments of customized work products compiled from public records.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, a state or local governmental unit must provide access to records in its custody unless otherwise provided by law or unless the custodian demonstrates that the public interest in withholding access to a record outweighs the strong public interest in providing access. Copies of records are available for a fee that may not exceed the actual, necessary and direct cost of reproduction and the costs of locating a record, if those costs are \$50 or more. With limited exceptions, however, no unit of government is required to create a new record by extracting information from existing records and compiling the information in a new format.

This bill permits any state or local governmental unit, upon request of any person, to create a customized work product in any medium, compiled from information contained in existing records maintained by that governmental unit that are accessible to that person by law. The bill also permits a governmental unit that provides a customized work product to charge a reasonable fee for this service, which may include the actual, necessary and direct cost of reproduction of the records from which the product is compiled, plus a reasonable allowance for the labor, materials and equipment, and for the maintenance and depreciation of the equipment, used to produce the product. The bill provides for revenue collected by state agencies from such fees to be deposited in the state general fund. Under the

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bill, a customized work product does not become a public record for purposes of laws governing records access and retention.

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

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 16.61 (2) (b) 7. of the statutes is created to read:

2 16.61 (2) (b) 7. Any work product created by a state agency in response to a
3 request made under s. 19.35 (1m).

4 **SECTION 2.** 19.32 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 19.32 (2) "Record" means any material on which written, drawn, printed,
6 spoken, visual or electromagnetic information is recorded or preserved, regardless
7 of physical form or characteristics, which has been created or is being kept by an
8 authority. "Record" includes, but is not limited to, handwritten, typed or printed
9 pages, maps, charts, photographs, films, recordings, tapes (including computer
10 tapes), computer printouts and optical disks. "Record" does not include drafts, notes,
11 preliminary computations and like materials prepared for the originator's personal
12 use or prepared by the originator in the name of a person for whom the originator is
13 working; materials which are purely the personal property of the custodian and have
14 no relation to his or her office; materials to which access is limited by copyright,
15 patent or bequest; and published materials in the possession of an authority other
16 than a public library which are available for sale, or which are available for
17 inspection at a public library; or any work product created by an authority in
18 response to a request made under s. 19.35 (1m).

19 **SECTION 3.** 19.32 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

20 19.32 (4) "State agency" has the meaning given in s. 20.001 (1).

