

DRAFTER'S NOTE
FROM THE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

LRB-3489/P3dn
RPN:jld:pg

January 9, 2004

Dan:

I did not add any language regarding asking for an opinion of the Attorney General (AG) because I could not find a statute that gave the other groups you mentioned authority to ask for and receive an opinion of the AG. Sections 19.39 and 19.98 give any person the authority to ask for advice from the Attorney General about matters relating to open records and open meetings, respectfully. Section 59.42 gives corporation counsels the same authority as district attorneys have under s. 165.25 (3) to ask for advice and counsel of the AG. Finally, s. 165.015 (1) allows the legislature and heads of state agencies to ask for written AG opinions.

If the groups you mentioned could refer me to a specific statute that I missed, I would amend that statute to include lake district associations.

It may be that anyone can ask for an AG opinion, but the AG has the discretion to not answer requests other than from those persons mentioned above.

Robert P. Nelson
Senior Legislative Attorney
Phone: (608) 267-7511
E-mail: robert.nelson@legis.state.wi.us