

## 2007 SENATE BILL 170

April 27, 2007 – Introduced by Senators HANSEN, LEHMAN, TAYLOR and KREITLOW, cosponsored by Representatives SINICKI, GRIGSBY, SCHNEIDER, TRAVIS and BERCEAU. Referred to Committee on Campaign Finance Reform, Rural Issues and Information Technology.

1     **AN ACT to create** 753.30 (5) of the statutes; **relating to:** a notice to parties in civil  
2           actions of the Supreme Court rule regarding judicial recusal and regarding  
3           access to a statement of economic interests.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current Supreme Court rules, a judge is required to recuse himself or herself under certain situations when facts he or she knows or should know establish a question regarding his or her impartiality or are such as would cause a well-informed person knowledgeable about judicial ethics standards and the justice system to question the judge's ability to be impartial.

Current law requires all state public officials to file a statement of economic interests with the Ethics Board.

This bill requires the clerk of circuit court to provide every party in a civil action or proceeding a summary of the Supreme Court rules regarding recusal and impartiality and the procedure to follow to review and copy a statement of economic interests. The director of state courts is required to prepare a document that includes the summary and procedure and provide the clerks with sufficient copies without cost. The bill prohibits the clerk of circuit court from charging a party for the cost of mailing the document to the party.

