March 11, 2008 – Introduced by Representatives SCHNEIDER and ALBERS. Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Ethics.

AN ACT to create 751.16 and 752.42 of the statutes; relating to: public access to appellate court conferences.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Currently, the supreme court and court of appeals conduct various conferences related to cases that are before those courts. Most of the conferences are closed to the public. This bill requires that all conferences held by the supreme court or court of appeals be open to the public.

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

SECTION 1. 751.16 of the statutes is created to read:

751.16 Public access to court conferences. All supreme court conferences, including preargument conferences, postargument decision conferences, opinion conferences, decision conferences, and administrative conferences shall be open to the public.

SECTION 2. 752.42 of the statutes is created to read:
752.42 Public access to court conferences. All court of appeals conferences, including screening conferences, preargument conferences, tentative decision conferences, motion conferences, opinion conferences, publication conferences, and decision conferences shall be open to the public.

(END)