October 29, 2021 – Introduced by Representatives MAGNAFICI, CABRAL-GUEVARA, CALLAHAN, Dittrich, EDMING, JAMES, MOSES, MURSAU, NOVAK, TRANEL, WICHGERS and ZIMMERMAN, cosponsored by Senators MARKLEIN, STAFSHOLT, BALLWEG, FELZKOWSKI, FEYEN, JAGLER, STROEBEL, TESTIN and WANGGAARD. Referred to Committee on Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

AN ACT relating to: report on access to public lands owned or managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to prepare a report that identifies public access opportunities on all lands owned or managed by DNR, land acquired under the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson stewardship program, and open managed forest lands. DNR must submit its report to the legislature no later than January 31, 2022.

For further information see the state 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:

SECTION 1. Nonstatutory provisions.

(1) PUBLIC LAND ACCESS REPORT. The department of natural resources shall prepare a report on all land owned or managed by the department, land acquired under the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson stewardship program under s. 23.0915 or 23.0917, and managed forest lands that are open to public access under s. 77.83.
For each property contained in the report, the department shall identify the number and type of access points for each property and the total miles of roads that are open or closed, including any seasonal restrictions, to motorized vehicular access by the public. For lands acquired under the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson stewardship program under s. 23.0915 or 23.0917, the department shall verify the lands are open for public access as required under s. 23.09165. The department shall submit the report to the joint committee on finance and to the senate and assembly standing committees having jurisdiction over natural resources no later than January 31, 2022.

(END)