



# Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

## TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 279

Thank you for today's hearing on Senate Bill 279, which creates a new pilot program aiding in cross-jurisdictional data sharing among law enforcement agencies.

Law enforcement agencies in a common area are often hamstrung as to what information they can access when making an arrest or coming into contact with an individual. While agencies will often sign Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs) to share information between departments, officers do not have ready access to useable information from outside jurisdictions. This silo-ing of data leads to cases that linger much longer than necessary. The current system slows down the process because cross-jurisdiction information sharing is limited.

Conversely, data-sharing across jurisdictions expedites the process. Thankfully, advances in technology have brought tools that can streamline different jurisdictions' information providing public safety officers with the best possible information across the wider area. This doesn't just help officers in the street, either. The cross-jurisdiction data sharing can provide additional insight into case files, resulting in more closed cases, more effective crime fighting, and improved public safety for all.

This proposal will create a pilot program targeting large interconnected areas, to allow for streamlining of investigations. Ultimately, this will allow investigators to spend less time searching siloed data systems and more time fighting crime and making our streets safer.

And isn't that what we all want?

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## Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 279

Thank you, Vice Chair James and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety, for convening today to hear public testimony on Senate Bill 279, a pilot program to enhance public safety, optimize law enforcement resources, and expedite justice through inter-agency data sharing.

Wisconsin's law enforcement agencies face a critical challenge: siloed data systems that obstruct timely access to vital information. In Milwaukee County alone, 19 municipal police departments and the Sheriff's Department struggle to share data efficiently, delaying investigations and case closures, leaving victims waiting for justice. Overworked and understaffed agencies exacerbate these delays. Yet, this creates a unique opportunity for Milwaukee County and nearby southeastern Wisconsin jurisdictions to test data sharing technology, given the existing level of cooperation that already occurs.

Senate Bill 279 offers a practical solution by establishing a pilot program to fund data-sharing solutions for law enforcement agencies. The platform must integrate with law enforcement systems on a real-time basis, eliminate redundant records, allow for advanced searches or analytics, and integrate data among participating agencies. By breaking down data silos, this initiative empowers patrol officers, detectives, and crime analysts to work more efficiently, spending less time navigating administrative bottlenecks and more time solving crimes.

How does this work in a practical setting? One compelling example is in regards to a homicide in 2022 in West Allis. The offender was unknown, but evidence determined the getaway vehicle. The analyst separately searched several different law enforcement databases and compiled a list of 1,000 vehicles matching the description. Due to the siloed data, it was not possible to export into one document. The analyst had to then run the plate for each vehicle individually to determine if the registered owner matched the description. The suspect was eventually identified, but not after approximately a month of manual data searching that could have been expedited through the use of data sharing technology.

Senate Bill 279 seeks to streamline inter-agency collaboration to boost closure rates, ensuring criminals are brought to justice swiftly. If successful, this model could pave the way for statewide adoption, amplifying its impact on public safety. Committee members, I urge you to support this common-sense legislation to deliver justice faster, making our communities safer and stronger.

Bob Donovan

State Representative  
61<sup>ST</sup> Assembly District



May 27, 2025

To: Chairman Wanggaard and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

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From: Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association

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Re: Support Senate Bill 279 – Law Enforcement Data Sharing Grant Program

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Chairman Wanggaard and committee members, thank you for your willingness to hold a hearing on this legislation. We would also like to thank the authors, Senator Wanggaard and Representative Donovan, for introducing this bill.

We ask for your support of Senate Bill 279.

This bill is a critical piece of legislation that would empower law enforcement agencies to acquire advanced data-sharing platforms. This bill is an investment in public safety and a commitment to saving lives and building stronger, more connected communities. These platforms enable agencies to collaborate efficiently and act decisively with access to shared, accurate, and timely data.

Law enforcement agencies across Wisconsin often operate with limited ability to share critical data in real time, creating gaps that hinder investigations and slow response efforts. While geographic boundaries may define our jurisdictions, the individuals committing crimes do not recognize or respect those lines. Criminal activity frequently spans multiple cities, counties, regions, and states. Yet the tools we use to investigate and respond remain fragmented.

Effective information sharing is essential to modern policing; it allows agencies to connect patterns, identify suspects, and act swiftly across jurisdictions. Without integrated data systems, we risk missing key links that could prevent crime or lead to faster resolutions.

Supporting SB 279 is not only a strategic law enforcement enhancement, but it's a community trust-building tool. With this technology, departments can provide citizens with transparent, neighborhood-specific crime and safety data. This responsiveness fosters public trust and accountability and strengthens the relationship between officers and the communities they serve.



Furthermore, this bill represents a force multiplier for agencies struggling with staffing and resource challenges. By leveraging data to deploy officers strategically, agencies can respond to crime more surgically and effectively, ensuring the right resources are sent to the right place at the right time. It is not about expanding force size; it's about expanding force impact.

The Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association supports this legislation and asks that the committee move forward on this legislation.

We would be happy to answer any questions regarding this legislation.

May 27, 2025

To: Chairman Wanggaard and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

From: Kyle Whyte, Peregrine

Re: Support Senate Bill 279 – Grants for law enforcement data sharing

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Chairman Wanggaard and committee members, thank you for convening this hearing to discuss Senate Bill 279. I would also like to thank Senator Wanggaard and Representative Donovan for their leadership in introducing this vital legislation.

I am Kyle Whyte, Senior Account Executive at Peregrine, and I am here to voice strong support for Senate Bill 279, which proposes a grant program to empower law enforcement agencies with a robust data-sharing platform.

Peregrine offers a purpose-built software solution designed to enhance law enforcement operations through data-driven decision-making. Unlike generic platforms retrofitted for police use, Peregrine was crafted with precision. Our founders embedded themselves within a police department to deeply understand its operational needs, building a tailored solution from the ground up.

Since our inception in 2018, Peregrine has partnered with hundreds of agencies nationwide, supporting departments ranging from 15 sworn officers to major forces like the Los Angeles and Atlanta Police Departments. Our platform begins by refining departmental data, eliminating duplicates and ensuring accuracy, to create a reliable foundation. This enables crime analysts, detectives, and department leaders to leverage precise data for informed decision-making.

The impact of this clean, accurate data is magnified when shared across neighboring jurisdictions, fostering regional collaboration to enhance public safety.

Employing advanced data-sharing technology can be a force multiplier, leading to more efficient police work, reducing overtime, and improving morale within departments.

Senate Bill 279's grant program would provide critical resources to implement such platforms, strengthening law enforcement's ability to serve communities effectively.

I urge your support for this forward-thinking legislation and am happy to answer any questions you may have.