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Hon. Randy R. Koschnick  
Director of State Courts

January 20, 2022

Hon. Van Wanggaard, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety  
Room 300N, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

RE: Senate Bill 857

Dear Senator Wanggaard and Committee Members:

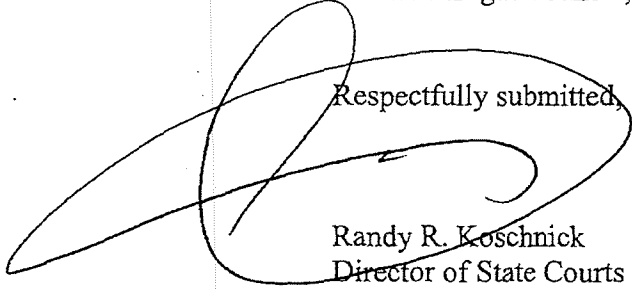
Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments for informational purposes on Senate Bill 857, which requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to create an annual report, to be published on an interactive internet site and provided to the Legislature, containing certain information for each crime charged in any Wisconsin circuit court. The bill requires the Director of State Courts to provide to DOJ the information required to create this report, including bond information for each charge filed in every case. As a preliminary matter, bond is ordered on a case basis—it is not ordered per charge. For example, while a case may have multiple charges, only one bond will be ordered for the entire case. As a result, the information can only reflect the bond ordered per case and not per charge.

Additionally, this bill requires the Director of State Courts to provide DOJ with the name of the judge assigned to the case and the corresponding bond information ordered by that judge. It is important to note that many counties utilize court commissioners, instead of judges, to determine bond. In these cases, data related to bond will not be captured since those decisions were not made by a judge.

While the Director of State Courts Office does not itself collect information on each case in the court system, the Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) administrative office is responsible for supporting the information technology needs of the entire court system. Part of these duties includes developing and maintaining the court system's case management system. This software integrates case file and court calendar information to help the courts function smoothly. Case information is entered into CCAP case management by each county clerk of circuit court.

In order to meet the data reporting requirements of this bill, CCAP will need to expand the capabilities of the Representational State Transfer (REST) service currently in place and used by DOJ and other state agencies. The REST service enables organizations to implement automated processes to monitor and download public circuit court information. Because some case management data elements are not included in the REST service, additional data fields will need to be programed to provide DOJ with all of the required information. In addition, for each case, form CR-203, Bail/Bond, will be provided to DOJ as the form includes information required to be reported to DOJ, but the information is not currently stored in a manner that makes it easily accessible to DOJ. CCAP estimates that it will take approximately three months and two staff members to expand the REST service to meet the new legislative requirements.

Thank you for your attention to this bill and for allowing me to submit this testimony. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Chief Legal Counsel, Karley Downing.



Respectfully submitted,

Randy R. Koschnick  
Director of State Courts

RRK:KRD