



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Representative Jim Ott and Senator Patrick Testin

DATE: June 19, 2020

RE: Co-Sponsorship of LRB 6282/1 relating to: the responsibilities of the Law Enforcement Standards Board and disclosure of employment files when recruiting former or current officers.

DEADLINE: Friday, June 26, at 12 noon

The last few weeks have been a challenging time for our state and country. Overall our law enforcement officers do an incredible job in protecting our lives and communities, and it's imperative that law enforcement agencies have the best and most qualified officers.

LRB 6282 will make it easier for hiring agencies to track the records of applicants by requiring an employment file to be maintained by an officer's current employer that will be transferred to any new law enforcement, jail or juvenile detention employer. It also requires statewide uniform training standards for jail, juvenile detention and law enforcement officers, helping new officers receive training in the most up to date practices.

When previously introduced as 2017 AB 506/ SB 403, this bill had overwhelming bipartisan support, passing the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety unanimously, passing the Assembly on a voice vote and passing the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety unanimously. These are meaningful, achievable steps that can move us forward as a state.

'Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill makes certain changes to the responsibilities of the Law Enforcement Standards Board. Under current law, the Law Enforcement Standards Board regulates the training of law enforcement officers. This bill requires the Law Enforcement Standards Board to also regulate jail and juvenile detention officer training standards, and to regulate recruitment standards for the recruiting of new law enforcement, jail, and juvenile detention officers.

The bill also requires each law enforcement agency to maintain an employment file for each employee. Under the bill, when a law enforcement agency, jail, or juvenile detention facility is recruiting for new officers, the agency, jail, or facility must require each candidate that is or has been employed by a different agency, jail, or facility to authorize that employer to disclose his or her employment files to the recruiting agency, jail, or facility and to release that employer from any liability related to the use and disclosure of the files.