



State of Wisconsin

2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

LRB-6386/1
MPG:skw

2025 BILL

1 AN ACT relating to: public affairs network request for proposals.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Administration to issue a request for proposals to solicit bids on a contract for the operation of a public affairs network in Wisconsin. Under the bill, the contract must include all of the following requirements and prohibitions:

1. The public affairs network must provide unedited live video and audio coverage, including online, of state government proceedings. State government proceedings include floor sessions of the senate and assembly, meetings of legislative committees, meetings of executive branch agencies, supreme court and other judicial proceedings, news conferences by legislators or other state government officials, and related civic events. Under the bill, in making coverage decisions, the public affairs network must prioritize floor sessions of the senate and assembly, meetings of legislative committees, meetings of executive branch agencies, and supreme court and other judicial proceedings and may, if practicable, provide coverage of eligible news conferences and civic events.

2. The public affairs network must provide coverage by live stream online of all legislative proceedings that are open to the public.

3. The public affairs network must permanently maintain and provide online public access to unedited digital archives of all of its coverage of all such state government proceedings.

4. No fee may be charged to access live or archived coverage of floor sessions of the senate and assembly or meetings of the Joint Committee on Finance.

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5. The public affairs network must be strictly nonpartisan.
6. The public affairs network must provide that its coverage may not be used for campaign purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. Nonstatutory provisions.**

2 (1) PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORK; REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.

3 (a) In this subsection, “state government proceedings” includes floor sessions
4 of the senate and assembly, meetings of legislative committees, meetings of
5 executive branch agencies, supreme court and other judicial proceedings, news
6 conferences by legislators or other government officials relating to legislative,
7 judicial, or executive branch official business, and civic events directly related to
8 legislative, judicial, or executive branch official business.

9 (b) No later than 30 days after the effective date of this paragraph, the
10 department of administration shall issue a request for proposals or other
11 procurement document to solicit bids on a contract for the operation of a public
12 affairs network in this state. The contract shall include all of the following
13 requirements and prohibitions:

14 1. The public affairs network shall provide unedited live video and audio
15 coverage, including online, of state government proceedings. In making coverage
16 decisions under this subdivision, the public affairs network shall prioritize floor
17 sessions of the senate and assembly, meetings of legislative committees, meetings of
18 executive branch agencies, and supreme court and other judicial proceedings and
19 may, to the extent practicable, provide coverage of news conferences by legislators
20 or other government officials relating to legislative, judicial, or executive branch

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1 official business and civic events directly related to legislative, judicial, or executive
2 branch official business.

3 2. The public affairs network shall provide coverage by live stream online of
4 all legislative proceedings that are open to the public.

5 3. The public affairs network shall permanently maintain and provide online
6 public access to unedited digital archives of all of its coverage specified in subds. 1.
7 and 2.

8 4. The public affairs network may not charge any fee to access live or archived
9 coverage of floor sessions of the senate and assembly or meetings of the joint
10 committee on finance.

11 5. The public affairs network shall be strictly nonpartisan.

12 6. The public affairs network shall provide that its coverage may not be used
13 for campaign purposes.

14 (END)