

Ask the LRB

State of Wisconsin
Legislative Reference Bureau
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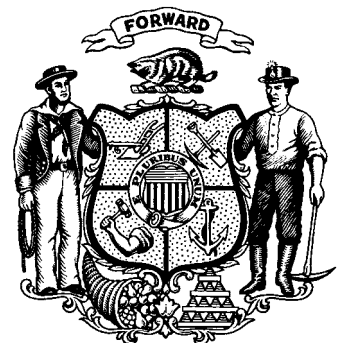


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ASK THE LRB

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU Stephen R. Miller, Chief

LRB General Office Hours

7:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Legal Services staff is available to legislators at any time the senate or assembly is in session.

Come In or Call

Main Entrance – 100 North Hamilton Street; Receptionist – 2nd Floor.

Legal Services – 5th Floor. Telephone: (608) 266-3561. Fax: (608) 264-6948.

Research and Reference – 2nd Floor. Telephone: (608) 266-0341. Fax: (608) 266-5648.

Theobald Legislative Library – 1st Floor. Telephone: (608) 266-7040.

LRB Website www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb

Created in 1901, the Legislative Reference Bureau was the first agency of its kind in the nation to provide professional, nonpartisan drafting and research services to a state legislature. Over the years, it has served as the model for similar offices in other states, as well as the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. The bureau oversees all legislative drafting and is Wisconsin's primary source for information about the legislature, the legislative process, and government in general.

The LRB staff, headed by the bureau chief, includes 58 full-time permanent positions. The agency functions through:

- the Research and Information Section, staffed by legislative analysts;
- the Theobald Legislative Library, staffed by librarians; and
- the Legal Services Section, staffed by attorneys.

The central support staff provides personnel, editorial, word processing, and program services.

I. RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICES

State law requires the LRB to collect information about government and make it available in the most suitable form to aid “legislators, other public officials, students of government and citizens generally.” It directs the LRB to use its materials to prepare studies and reports about subjects that are or may become items of concern to the legislature. The LRB’s legislative analysts also produce the biennial *Wisconsin Blue Book*, the almanac of Wisconsin government, and assist the legislature in maintaining its Internet site, which includes the LRB’s own Web page, where many of its publications are available electronically.

Assistance to Legislators. Since the bureau’s founding, the primary concern of the LRB research staff has been to assist the state’s legislators with their lawmaking duties and responses to constituents in their home districts. Each month, the legislative analysts provide immediate responses to dozens of requests from lawmakers’ offices for background informa-

tion, historical analysis, and summaries of legislation pending in Wisconsin and other states. They gather information from a variety of sources, including daily newspapers and periodicals; materials in the LRB's extensive library collection; policy experts in Wisconsin and other states; databases maintained by the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Council of State Governments; the LEXIS-NEXIS national database of periodicals and publications; and the worldwide resources available on the Internet. The analysts also assist legislators and their staff in using the LRB library to do their own research.

By law, all requests from legislators to LRB staff must be handled in a nonpartisan, confidential manner, and the analysts must "perform reference services for all members of the legislature equally and impartially."

Wisconsin Blue Book. A major service of the LRB is the preparation of the *Wisconsin Blue Book*, the 1,000-page biennial almanac of Wisconsin government. This unique resource, which is published in the fall of odd-numbered years, provides biographies and pictures of elected state officials in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, as well as Wisconsin members of the U.S. Congress. It also contains the Wisconsin Constitution and in-depth descriptions of the organization, responsibilities, and history of each state agency. In addition, the *Blue Book* offers approximately 200 pages of basic statistical information about a wide range of state topics, such as population, school enrollment, agriculture, industry, elections, local government, social services, and state finance. Each edition includes a feature article on a subject of general interest to Wisconsin readers. The LRB strives to keep the *Blue Book* a useful and up-to-date resource, and it welcomes readers' suggestions and comments.

The *Blue Book* is available in print format and electronic format on the Internet. The LRB publishes a study guide for elementary and secondary schools to supplement each edition of the *Blue Book*. The guide is available from the LRB and individual legislative offices.

Each state legislator receives a specified number of complimentary copies of the *Blue Book* for free distribution, and copies are sent to all public and private schools in Wisconsin, as well as to public libraries and government officials. *Blue Book* sales are handled by the Department of Administration's Document Sales Unit, P.O. Box 7840, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7840.

LRB on the Internet. In addition to supporting the legislature's site and editing its "Spotlight" on current happenings in the legislative branch, the LRB maintains its own Web page on the Internet at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb>. The LRB page describes the bureau's services and contains links to recent LRB publications, which are offered as pdf (portable document format) documents. The public can use e-mail to contact the LRB with requests for information about Wisconsin and the activities of the legislature.

Services for All Patrons. Although the principal mission of the LRB is to serve the Wisconsin Legislature, the research staff also devotes a major portion of its time answering the public's general and specific questions. Each day, legislative analysts handle numerous mail and telephone requests for information about Wisconsin state government, other state governments, and congressional matters. They also make periodic presentations to professional organizations, civic groups, and students to keep them updated on the legislative process, LRB research services, and the LRB library collection.

Services for Attorneys and Legal Researchers. Attorneys often ask the LRB for assistance in determining the legislative intent of particular sections of the Wisconsin Statutes. Although legislative analysts do not interpret the law and cannot engage in extensive research on private

requests, the bureau does have various records that attorneys may find helpful. Attorneys are invited to visit the LRB and become acquainted with the resources available for researching the legislative history of statutes. The LRB also offers training sessions for attorneys, law clerks, and law librarians on the basic elements of legislative bibliography and process.

The LRB has a number of resources that are useful to attorneys and others conducting legal research:

- Bill drafting records (described in detail below).
- Listings of each bill's authors and its procedural history.
- Copies of bills and amendments from the current or past sessions.
- Reports by the Joint Legislative Council, Judicial Council, and governors' task forces relating to legislation introduced at the request of these bodies.
- Meeting minutes for Joint Legislative Council committees and the Judicial Council.
- Names of persons appearing or registering at legislative committee hearings since 1953.
- Newspaper clippings related to the subject matter of the bill.

Some information that patrons request does not exist or cannot be provided:

- Floor debates on bills before the Wisconsin Legislature are not recorded in either verbatim or summary form.
- Oral testimony at legislative committee hearings and committee discussion usually is not recorded in either verbatim or summary form. (However, records of names of persons testifying for or against a bill are available.)
- Drafting records are not available for legislation considered before 1927.
- Comprehensive summaries of the legislators' voting record cannot be supplied by the LRB because of time constraints. The bureau cannot supply extensive voting records, such as the votes of all legislators on a number of proposals or of a particular legislator on all measures for a session. Similarly, it cannot fill broad requests for voting records on "all important measures" or "all measures relating to schools". The research staff will, however, assist patrons in using legislative documents to locate this information for themselves.

Bill Drafting Records. As the legislative attorneys prepare bill drafts, they keep records reflecting each step of the process. Once a proposal is introduced, its drafting record is open to public inspection. These records may contain useful background information about the source or purpose of a particular piece of legislation. The LRB maintains a complete set of all drafting records for bills introduced and acts passed since 1927.

Contents of drafting files vary. Some files have only minimal information. Others may contain correspondence suggesting the purposes of a proposal, notes about the nature of the drafting request, copies of earlier bills that were used as models for the final version, records of the sponsoring group or individuals, and clues about who requested the legislation or the objective in proposing the measure.

The drafting records must be identified by number. Records for bills that were introduced, but not enacted, are filed by bill number. Drafting records of bills enacted into law are filed by their respective session years and their chapter or act numbers. (Prior to the 1983 legislative session, new laws were called “chapters” when enacted and numbered in sequential order, e.g., Chapter 42, Laws of 1965. Since January 1983, the term “Wisconsin Act” has replaced “chapter”, e.g., 1997 Wisconsin Act 27.)

If it is not possible to identify the specific session law, the requestor can help the research staff by indicating the statutory sentence or phrase in question and the approximate date the language was changed.

Persons conducting legal research may inspect and copy drafting records in the LRB reading room. Complete copies of the drafting records on microfiche are also available at Marquette University Law Library, Milwaukee Public Library, the State Law Library (Madison), the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (Madison), and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law Library. Those who cannot visit the Madison and Milwaukee sites may contact the LRB to secure microfiche copies of the records. There is a charge for this copying service; contact the LRB by phone or e-mail to check current costs. In addition, LRB legislative analysts occasionally answer questions about specific drafting records for persons who do not have access to the locations mentioned.

II. THEOBALD LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY

The Dr. H. Rupert Theobald Legislative Library, named in honor of the bureau’s longest-serving chief, contains a wealth of information on public policy issues and constitutes the single most comprehensive source of information on Wisconsin legislation. Its holdings specialize in materials related to federal, state, and local government and a broad spectrum of topics which may be of interest to Wisconsin’s lawmakers. The collection’s major subject areas include legislative procedure, state finance, economic development, education, state administrative organization, environmental concerns, local government finance, social services, agricultural conditions, health, crime, and transportation. Although the library is organized primarily to meet the needs of the legislature, it is open to the general public.

Beginning in early 2001, the LRB’s Web-based catalog will offer many new services for library patrons, including easy searching of the library’s holdings and the ability to make requests, renew materials, and confirm due dates online.

Circulating Collection. The circulating collection consists primarily of current research materials, augmented by some basic reference works and a small number of other books. It is cataloged in detail by subject and author. Most materials circulate for four weeks and loans may be renewed if necessary.

Clippings Collection. A unique aspect of the legislative library is its vast collection of newspaper and periodical clippings, related to legislation and public administration with special emphasis on Wisconsin. This collection, which grows by about 20,000 items per year, provides information that is often not available elsewhere. It is classified by subject, which makes it easier to access than newspaper holdings in general libraries. The clippings files do not circulate, but they can be photocopied.

Reference Collection. The noncirculating reference collection, housed in the LRB reading room, includes an historical sequence of the Wisconsin Statutes, session laws, legislative journals and indices, Supreme Court reports and Attorney General opinions, and all bills introduced in the legislature since 1897. Other reference sources include: the *Wisconsin Administrative Code*, the *U.S. Code*, U.S. census publications, the *Congressional Record*, and a small number of other common government references such as *The Book of the States*, *U.S. Government Manual*, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, and *State Tax Guide*. General encyclopedias, dictionaries, and almanacs are also available.

Wisconsin State Documents Collection. The bureau attempts to collect copies of all publications produced by Wisconsin state government agencies. Materials in the collection range from informational brochures, directories, and newsletters to annual reports, meeting minutes, and program evaluations. Although a number of the more recent titles are available in electronic format over the Internet, the library will continue collecting print copies, whenever possible, to insure these publications will be permanently available. Items in the document collection do not circulate.

Copying Services. Because clippings files, reference works, drafting records, and state documents do not circulate, patrons may photocopy materials at a nominal cost. Copies of individual microfiche or photocopies of the microfiche are available to LRB patrons at a reasonable charge, and mail requests are accepted and processed as quickly as workload permits. The LRB offers one free copy of any item on microfiche to Wisconsin state or local governmental agencies or governmental agencies in other states.

Subject and Author Index. LRB librarians prepare the Index to the *Bulletin of Proceedings of the Wisconsin Legislature*, which gives a complete listing by primary authors and cosponsors or by subject for all bills, joint resolutions, and resolutions introduced during a legislative session. (The *Bulletin* also contains an index to the daily journals, a subject index to Wisconsin acts, and a listing of those statutory sections affected by bills introduced and those affected by laws enacted.)

Portions of the Index appear on the legislature's Web site and are updated every Friday when the legislature is in session. A paper version of the cumulative Index is printed every Tuesday during legislative sessions and less often when the legislature is not in session. The LRB also publishes a directory of registered lobbyists and lobbying organizations and the legislative liaisons for the executive branch, based on information provided by the Ethics Board.

III. LEGAL SERVICES

LRB Drafting Services. By law, the LRB is responsible for drafting all legislative proposals and related amendments for introduction in the legislature. Legislative attorneys may accept bill drafting requests from legislators (members and members-elect), legislative service agencies, independent interim committees of the legislature, and state executive and judicial agencies. Others, including lobbyists, may use the LRB drafting services only upon the specific request of a legislator.

During a single legislative session, the bureau handles approximately 14,000 drafting requests for statutory changes. More than 5,000 are for separate bills and, of those, about 1,800 are eventually introduced for consideration on the floor of the legislature. By law, the LRB's

drafting services must be conducted on a nonpartisan and confidential basis. No information about a drafting request, including the existence of such a request, can be released until the measure has been introduced in the legislature (unless release is authorized by the requestor).

The amount of time and effort required to produce a particular draft varies according to the scope of the proposal, the complexity of the legal problems involved, and the extent to which the statutes already treat the subject. If there are existing statutes pertaining to the subject, the legislative attorney may have to develop language to amend or repeal some of them. If no statute exists, it will be necessary to create one or more provisions. Any statutory change that the draft creates must take into account the state and federal constitutions, federal laws and regulations, pertinent court cases, and any common law principles upon which Wisconsin law is based.

Amendments may be necessary or desirable after a proposal has been reviewed at a public hearing or debated on the floor of either house. Legislative attorneys assist legislators by drafting either simple amendments to the original draft proposal or substitute amendments, which completely replace the original.

The LRB has developed special tools to assist legislators and the public in reviewing pending legislation. For example, every bill includes an analysis, written by the legislative attorney who drafts it, explaining the effect of the proposal in clear and concise language. The analysis must be factual, complete, and impartial, but the reader should be alert to the fact it relates only to the measure at the time of introduction and does not reflect subsequent amendments.

Another helpful tool, which Wisconsin pioneered, is the “fiscal estimate”. Every bill that creates, increases, or decreases an appropriation or alters the fiscal liability or revenues of state or local government must carry an estimate of its fiscal effect. When drafting a bill, the legislative attorney decides whether the bill requires a fiscal estimate. If it does, the draft is sent to the agency or agencies that are responsible for the program or have the greatest knowledge of the subject, and they are asked to determine projected revenues or expenditures. When completed, the fiscal estimate is printed and becomes an official attachment to the introduced bill.

The LRB is responsible for printing “enrolled” or “engrossed” versions of bills, which reflect the latest action taken on the measures. The bureau may engross the text of a bill that has passed one house, if the chief clerk of the house requests a printing; it must enroll the final text of any bill that has passed both houses before the measure is presented to the governor for signature.

Other Legal Services. When the legislature is in floor session, drafting work takes priority but, as time permits, legislative attorneys may be asked to attend committee hearings or meetings to offer impartial analyses of drafts or to explain legal matters pertinent to pending proposals. At a legislator’s request, the drafting attorney may also meet with the legislator, the legislator’s constituents, or other interested persons to explain drafts and discuss possible re-drafts or amendments.

LRB attorneys perform additional legal functions, including:

- Preparing summaries of new state laws and significant court decisions for publication by the LRB;
- Answering general legal questions from legislators and public officials;

- Assisting state agencies and others concerned with questions of legislative intent and statutory construction;
- Assisting the legislature in procedural rules determinations;
- Preparing legal memoranda and opinions at the request of public officials or public agencies;
- Engaging in public speaking or instruction on legislative functions and other subjects;
- Staffing conference committees and other ad hoc committees; and
- Conducting research on drafting methods and legal issues.

Legislative attorneys also maintain contact with administrators, legislators, and other sources about implementation of new legislation in order to suggest improvements in the law.

IV. HISTORY OF THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

In 1901, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted Chapter 168, which directed the Free Library Commission

to maintain in the state capitol, for the use and information of the legislature, the several state departments, and such other citizens as may desire to consult the same, a working library, as complete as may be, of the several public documents of this and other states; and to purchase for said library standard works of use and references.

Before that, the Historical Library and the State Library, both located in the Capitol, had filled these needs. However, when the Historical Library moved to its new building on the university campus and the State Library changed from a general library to one specifically designed to serve the Wisconsin Supreme Court, there was no resource center for materials related to the legislative process. The 1901 law provided one.

Governance. The Wisconsin Free Library Commission was the governing body of the Legislative Reference Library from 1901 until August 1, 1963. Chapter 149, Laws of 1963, renamed the Legislative Reference Library as the Legislative Reference Bureau, and on August 1, 1963, the LRB was placed under the supervision of the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization (JCLO).

The JCLO, which includes majority and minority party leaders from both houses, acts as the policy-making body for the LRB and the other legislative service agencies. It selects the LRB chief, considers and approves the agency's budget, and may adopt regulations for its operation.

Duties and Services. Since its beginnings a century ago, the LRB has gradually increased the size and scope of its activities. Creation of the agency marked the first effort to provide professional staff assistance to a state legislature. Although New York had established a legislative reference library as a section of the state library in 1890, Wisconsin expanded the concept of service to the legislature by collecting and making available for legislative and public use many kinds of informational materials and providing drafting and research assistance to legislators. This concept proved successful. As a pioneer, it served as the primary model for simi-

lar agencies in other states, as well as the Legislative Reference Bureau (now the Congressional Research Service) of the Library of Congress.

Chapter 238, Laws of 1903, extended the bureau's duties by directing the Free Library Commission to maintain a legislative reference room in the Capitol. Chapter 508, Laws of 1907, added a specific appropriation for bill drafting, although the bureau had performed this service from the beginning. Chapter 508 also instructed the LRB to index session laws, statutes, private and special laws, bills, and documents and journals from the beginning of the state's history.

Chapter 772, Laws of 1913, further enlarged the bureau's duties by authorizing it to "collect, summarize, and index information of a legislative nature relating to legislation of foreign countries, of states of this country, the federal government and municipalities." The library could also "make such investigation into statute law, [and] legislative and governmental institutions as will aid the legislature to perform its duties in the most efficient and economical manner."

The bureau began editing the *Blue Book* when Chapter 194, Laws of 1929, reassigned that duty from the Free Library Commission, which had previously been responsible for publishing the book. The *Blue Book* was to contain "lists of senators and assemblymen" and "statistical and other information". It was intended to be useful for school civics classes, and its size was limited to 800 pages or less. (That limit was increased to 1,000 in 1971.) Chapter 82, Laws of 1971, changed the book's publication date from even-numbered to odd-numbered years. The 1997-1998 edition, celebrating the state's sesquicentennial, was the first book to use color photographs.

Since its inception, the LRB has performed its duties on an impartial, nonpartisan, confidential basis. Charles McCarthy, the first director of the Legislative Reference Library, recognized at the outset that, to serve the legislature effectively, the agency must have protection from partisan or political pressures. In 1906, he advised officials of other states who wished to organize a similar service: "The department must be entirely non-political and non-partisan or else it will be worse than useless. If you have the choice between establishing a political department and no department at all, take the latter." (*Wisconsin Library Bulletin*, July-August 1906, p. 55)

V. CHIEFS OF THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

Charles McCarthy, 1901-1921

Charles McCarthy, who created the agency now known as the Legislative Reference Bureau and served as its first chief, was born to Irish immigrant parents in Brockton, Massachusetts, on June 29, 1873. He achieved distinction as an All-American football player at Brown University, and later coached football at the University of Georgia for two seasons before attending the University of Wisconsin, where he earned a Ph.D. in history in 1901. That same year, the Free Library Commission established a library for the legislature in the Capitol and appointed McCarthy to fill the position of chief document clerk at a salary of \$83.33 per month. (McCarthy chose to be called “chief”, and the title continues today.)

An advocate of the progressive movement, McCarthy strongly supported “The Wisconsin Idea” that emphasized the debt of service the University of Wisconsin owed to the state and its citizens. His objective in collecting information from all over the world was to promote well-drafted, innovative legislation that would survive court challenge and serve as a model for other states and the federal government. He also worked to develop vocational education, first in Wisconsin in 1911 and later nationally through promotion of the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917, which created federal aids for vocational schools.

Because of McCarthy’s political activism, Governor Emanuel Philipp attempted to dismantle the bureau in 1915, but McCarthy successfully defended the mission of the LRB and later became a trusted advisor to Philipp. Later in his career, McCarthy served the federal government as the first director of the U.S. Commission on Industrial Relations and as a personal aide to Herbert Hoover in the Food Administration during World War I. An early exponent of farmers’ cooperatives for purchasing and marketing, he influenced the system of state regulation of railroads and public utilities. He also urged municipal budget reform, the commission type of city government, and widening the state’s educational opportunities through the University Extension program. Hoping to improve his health, he journeyed to Prescott, Arizona, where he died on March 25, 1921. The Wisconsin Legislature honored his service with a bronze plaque, installed in the Assembly Chamber.

Edwin E. Witte, 1922-1933

McCarthy’s protégé and successor, Edwin E. Witte, was born on a farm near Watertown, Wisconsin, on January 4, 1887. In 1905, he entered the University of Wisconsin, where he majored in history and earned a Ph.D. in economics in 1927. After working as an aide to Congressman John M. Nelson and serving five years as secretary of the Wisconsin Industrial Commission, Witte served as chief of the Legislative Reference Library from 1922 to 1933, when he returned to the University of Wisconsin as a professor of economics.

In 1934, Witte was named executive director and research synthesizer for President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Committee on Economic Security. While working in this capacity, he drafted the federal Social Security Act of 1935. Previously, he had published a book in 1932, entitled *The Government in Labor Disputes*, and he made significant contributions to the drafting of the Norris-LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Act of 1932. In succeeding years, Witte served as a member of the President’s Committee on Administrative Management, the War Labor Board, the Advisory Council for Employment Security, and the Atomic Energy Labor Relations Panel. In 1948, he organized and became the first president of the Industrial Relations Research Association and, in 1955, he was elected president of the American Economic Association.

Witte chaired the Department of Economics at the University of Wisconsin from 1936 to 1941 and again from 1946 to 1957, and Witte Hall, a residence hall at the UW-Madison, was named in his honor. He died on May 20, 1960, in Madison.

Howard Ohm, 1933-1949

Born on September 9, 1891, in Spalding, Michigan, Howard Ohm attended elementary and high school in Milwaukee. He entered the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1908 and received his law degree five years later.

His practice with the firm of Riley and Ohm specialized in legislative research, bill drafting, and law revision. He also served as counsel for a number of legislative interim committees and did legal work for the Board of Public Affairs. From 1927 to 1931, Ohm was an examiner for the Workmen's Compensation Division of the Industrial Commission. In 1933, he was appointed chief of the Legislative Reference Library.

Ohm was the first president of the Legislative Service Conference and helped found and organize the Madison Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration. He died on October 5, 1949, in Madison.

Marinus G. [Gus] Toepel, 1950-1963

Born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, on November 11, 1905, Gus Toepel received a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin in 1927 and an M.A. in political science in 1936. After teaching high school for a short time, he worked as a research assistant at the University of Texas and a field investigator and senior rating board examiner for the U.S. Civil Service Commission.

Toepel served in military intelligence in the U.S. Army during World War II and became educational coordinator for the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance after the war. He later was expeditor for the UW-Extension Center at Racine and the first director of the Green Bay Extension Center. From 1947 to 1949, Toepel served as executive secretary of the Wisconsin Education Commission. He directed the UW-Extension Division's Bureau of Government until he was appointed chief of the LRB in June 1950. He remained at this post until his death on July 12, 1963, in Madison. During his tenure as chief, Toepel emphasized legislative research and began publishing LRB research in a series of bulletins.

H. Rupert Theobald, 1964-1994

When he retired in July 1994, Dr. H. Rupert Theobald held the record as the longest serving director of a legislative service agency in the nation. In recognition of his many accomplishments and years of service to the citizens of Wisconsin, the legislature directed that the LRB library be formally named the "Dr. H. Rupert Theobald Legislative Library" and that a bas relief be commissioned in his honor and permanently installed in the Assembly Chamber.

Born in Berlin, Germany, on March 12, 1930, Theobald attended colleges and universities in Germany before coming to Wisconsin. He won a scholarship to the University of Wisconsin as a journalism student in 1950 and became a U.S. citizen in 1955. He completed his graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, earning his M.A. in political science in 1960 and his Ph.D. in the same field in 1971. His dissertation focused on legislative and congressional reapportionment.

Theobald joined the LRB staff in 1957 as a research associate. He was named coordinator of reference and research in 1960, served as acting chief in 1963, and was appointed bureau chief in January 1964.

During his 30-year tenure as chief, Theobald pioneered the development and installation of the nation's first computerized system for bill drafting and statutory retrieval. He was also recognized for his expertise in redistricting, parliamentary procedure, the legislative process, and state government organization. In 1986, he received the first Council of State Governments' Charles McCarthy Award for Leadership in Information Services, a special honor because the national award is named for the LRB's founding chief.

Stephen R. Miller, 1998-

Stephen R. Miller became the LRB's sixth chief on June 16, 1998. He was born in Muncie, Indiana, in 1950 and attended Ball State University, receiving a bachelor's degree in English. He moved to Mississippi in 1973 to attend graduate school at the University of Mississippi, where he was awarded a master's degree in business administration and a law degree.

Miller served as the first hearing officer for the Mississippi Employee Appeals Board and worked for several years as general counsel to the Mississippi Legislature's Joint Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review. He also managed the legislature's redistricting office. He is active in the National Conference of State Legislatures, having served on the Executive Committee and as staff chair of the Redistricting Task Force.