

**TO: All Legislature**

**FROM: Senator David Craig**

**Representative Joe Sanfelippo**

**RE: Co-Sponsorship [LRB-1642/1](#): The Transparent Justice Act**

**DATE: May 24, 2019**

The Transparent Justice Act increases transparency in the judicial system by adding additional information to the publicly available portion of the consolidated court automation programs (CCAP). Simple transparency can cure many ills in government and, in this case, would help inform voters of the actions of their elected officials in the justice system.

Specifically, this legislation would require that the following information for all crimes is publicly available and searchable in CCAP:

- (a) The county in which charges were filed.
- (b) The judge assigned to the case.
- (c) All cases adjudicated by the judge.
- (d) The criminal charge filed.
- (e) The charging recommendation from the referring law enforcement agency, if applicable.
- (f) Whether the case resulted in a conviction.
- (g) The penalty that was imposed, if any, in the case.

In Wisconsin, District Attorneys and judges are elected positions. The electorate deserves to have transparent information on the final work product of these important government agents. While this legislation is not a cure all for every issue in the criminal justice system, making additional information available to the public will allow policymakers to develop and consider potential reforms.

## **BILL LANGUAGE**

### ***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

Under current law, the director of state courts maintains the consolidated court automation programs website, which is an Internet site that is the statewide electronic circuit court case management system. The director of state courts has discretion regarding what information is available through the CCAP website. Under the bill, the director of state courts must ensure that the CCAP website provides the following information in a searchable format for all crimes: the county in which charges were filed, the judge assigned to the case, all cases adjudicated by the judge, the criminal charge filed, the charging recommendation from the referring law enforcement agency, if applicable, whether the case resulted in a conviction, and the penalty that was imposed, if any, in the case.