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“Judicial Transparency Act” Advances to Assembly Bill Allows Users to Search CCAP by Judge

MADISON – The “Judicial Transparency Act,” requiring the Consolidated Court Automation Program (“CCAP”) to be searchable by judge, passed the State Senate today. Every Senate Democrat voted against this common sense bill.

“Last August, the State Supreme Court proudly proclaimed it was entering a new era of transparency and accountability. This bill continues that effort,” said bill author Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine). “I can’t think of a better way to make the judicial branch more transparent and accountable than allowing the public to better research how judges act on the bench.”

Under current law, CCAP the Director of State Courts has virtually unlimited authority over the information available on CCAP, with two statutory requirements regarding eviction information and Department of Corrections access to CCAP. Senate Bill 944 adds a third requirement, that CCAP data be searchable by judge.

“Allowing CCAP to be searchable by judge is just common sense. Why would Democrats vote against that?” said Wanggaard. “Democrats claimed they want transparency, but when it came to voting for transparency in the court, they ran for the hills. It would be sad if it weren’t so predictable. Saying one thing while doing another has become typical for them.”

Senate Bill 944 now moves to the State Assembly, where it is expected to pass this week. The bill would then head to Governor Evers for his signature. If Governor Evers signs the bill, judge information would be searchable on CCAP by the end of the year.

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