
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2023 Wisconsin Act 223 [2023 Senate Bill 119]

Public Records Identifying Confidential Law Enforcement Informants

State law requires a law enforcement agency that receives a public records request for a record that contains specific information that, if disclosed, would identify a law enforcement informant, to delete the portion of the record in which the information is contained. If no portion of the record can be inspected or copied without identifying the informant, the law enforcement agency must withhold the record unless the custodian of the record makes a determination that the public interest in allowing a person to inspect, copy, or receive a copy of the identifying information outweighs the harm done to the public interest by providing access.

2023 Wisconsin Act 223 removes the language that limits the obligation described above to a law enforcement agency. Under the act, any authority that receives a public records request for a record that contains specific information that, if disclosed, would identify a law enforcement informant, must either redact or withhold the record.

Effective date: March 29, 2024

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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