



LION Board Activity Report

March 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025

AB171/SB169 - 2023 Act 235 Cleanup Legislation

Adam Dorn and Fred lausly continue to represent LION on the working group seeking legislation to clean up and clarify the judicial shielding law approved as 2023 Act 235. The result of their effort, LRB-2066 was sent to all LIOs for comment on 3/12/25.

US House Committee on Energy & Commerce Privacy Working Group RFI

The 12-member privacy working group is tasked with creating a framework for national data privacy legislation. The LION board is monitoring.

AB216/SB - Real Estate Transfer Fee

Adam Dorn and Fred lausly represent LION on a WLIA working group looking to make changes to the real estate transfer fee and increase WLIP funding. On 3/21/25, LRB-2260 was sent to all LIOs for comment.

The significant WLIP related items in that proposal:

- \$0.40 of the RETF would go into the WLIP
- Increases base budget eligibility to \$175,000
- Increases training and education grants to \$5000
- Creates a contribution based grant with 46% of the WLIP funds collected through the RETF
- Requirement to establish a real property recording notification system to be administered by the county's register of deeds.

The LION Board formally voted to support this proposal on 3/27/25. Aye – 5, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1 (Sommers)

WLIA Board Retreat

On 3/28/25, Eric Damkot was invited to present a brief LION update to the newly seated WLIA Board. The report included the statutory role of the LIO, an introduction to the LION, and information on how LION and WLIA frequently interact.

AB157/SB172 - Prohibiting recording contracts for services or materials that do not improve real estate.

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/REG/AB157>

This bill provides that, with certain, specified exceptions, no person may file or record with, or present for filing or recording to, a register of deeds a non-improvement contract or a notice, memorandum, or other instrument related to a non-improvement contract (document) and authorizes the register of deeds to reject such a document and return it unrecorded. The LION board is monitoring.

BFI Cleanup Legislation

2023 Act 12 exempted personal property from assessment and taxes. Items, previously categorized as personal property and determined to still be taxable, were added to the real estate assessment roll on Jan 1, 2024. Legislation is being sought to clarify and cleanup the law enacted by 2023 Act 12. Eric Damkot is representing LION on a BFI related focus group.

ROD Cleanup Legislation

A bill that modifies various sections to statute to clarify and define the role of the Register of Deeds. Changes include modernizing the section defining the legal description requirements, changes to recording standards, replacing references to “page” with “document”, etc...

Submitted by,
Eric Damkot, LION Chair