

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on
Campaigns &
Elections
(_AC_-CE_)

File Naming Example:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

NOTICES ...

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH (Public Hearing Announcements)

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE
CLERK FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

Name:

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

**

➤ Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

➤ 05hr_ab0392_AC-CE_pt01

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **



State of Wisconsin • DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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Jim Doyle
Governor

Michael L. Morgan
Secretary of Revenue

Campaign and Elections Committee Hearing, May 18, 2006

Assembly Bill 392 – Increases Designations for Wisconsin Election Campaign Fund (Representative Black)

Description of Current Law and Proposed Change

Under current law, the Wisconsin election campaign fund is financed through designations made by taxpayers on their individual income tax forms. Every individual filing an income tax return, irrespective of tax liability, may designate \$1 of general purpose revenue for transfer to the Wisconsin election campaign fund. The check-off is similar to the federal check-off used to fund presidential election campaigns insofar as the designation does not affect either tax liability or refunds. The federal program provides for a \$3 designation.

This bill increases the amount of the individual income tax designation for the Wisconsin election campaign fund from \$1 to \$5.

Fairness/Tax Equity

- The bill would enhance public financing of campaigns by increasing taxpayer designations. Participation in the program may increase insofar as taxpayers would be able to designate to either a general account for use by all eligible candidates for state office or to a particular political party.
- Based on a 2003 Federation of Tax Administrators survey, 20 other states have check-off programs to contribute to political campaigns similar to the federal check-off. Most of these designations are limited to \$1 or \$2 per return.

Administrative Impact/Fiscal Effect

- Based on donations made on 2003 returns, it is assumed that 242,000 taxpayers designate the \$1 transfer annually under current law. Assuming the same number of taxpayers would designate the \$5 transfer, Wisconsin election campaign fund designations would increase by approximately \$1 million (242,000 x \$4). GPR funds would decrease by a corresponding amount.
- The bill requires individuals to indicate whether the designation is to be placed in a general account or in the account of an eligible political party whose name is certified to the secretary of revenue either by July 1 or December 15 of even-numbered years. To ensure timely distribution, tax form booklets must be sent to the printer by November; this would preclude information received on December 15 from being incorporated in the tax booklets for that year.

May 17, 2006

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