



1995 ASSEMBLY BILL 3

January 9, 1995 - Introduced by Representatives BLACK, CARPENTER, HARSDORF, PLACHE, R. YOUNG, ZIEGELBAUER, ROBSON, BAUMGART, WILDER, REYNOLDS, BOCK and DUEHOLM, cosponsored by Senator BURKE. Referred to Committee on Elections and Constitutional Law.

- 1 **AN ACT to create** 11.01 (13) and (14) and 11.39 of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 political contributions by certain committees during certain periods.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill prohibits any special interest (“political action”) committee from making a contribution to an individual who is a candidate for a partisan state office or a personal campaign or authorized support committee of such a candidate, except during the period between June 1 and December 31 of an even-numbered year, if the individual is a candidate for a partisan state office at the general election to be held in that year. The bill similarly prohibits a special interest committee from making a contribution to an individual who is a candidate for a nonpartisan state office or a personal campaign or authorized support committee of such a candidate, except during the period between December 1 preceding a spring election and ending on the day of that election, if the individual is a candidate for a nonpartisan state office at that election. The prohibition also extends to a contribution from an individual which is transferred by a “conduit” committee. The prohibition does not apply to a candidate for state office at a special election or a personal campaign committee of such a candidate during the period beginning on the day that the special election is ordered and ending on the day of the special election. Violations are punishable by a forfeiture (civil penalty) of up to treble the amount of the contribution. Intentional violations are punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both (a misdemeanor).

Currently, there is no restriction on the period during which committees may make contributions.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

- 3 **SECTION 1.** 11.01 (13) and (14) of the statutes are created to read:

1 11.01 (13) "Nonpartisan state office" means the office of state superintendent,
2 justice, court of appeals judge or circuit judge.

3 (14) "Partisan state office" means the office of governor, lieutenant governor,
4 secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, state senator, state
5 representative to the assembly or district attorney.

6 **SECTION 2.** 11.39 of the statutes is created to read:

7 **11.39 Certain committee contributions prohibited.** (1) No committee
8 other than a political party, legislative campaign, personal campaign or support
9 committee may make or transfer a contribution to a candidate for a partisan state
10 office, personal campaign committee of such a candidate or support committee of
11 such a candidate authorized under s. 11.05 (3) (p), except during the period
12 commencing on June 1 of an even-numbered year and ending with the day of the
13 general election, if the individual is a candidate for a partisan state office at the
14 general election to be held in that year.

15 (2) No committee other than a political party, legislative campaign, personal
16 campaign or support committee may make or transfer a contribution to a candidate
17 for a nonpartisan state office, personal campaign committee of such a candidate or
18 support committee of such a candidate authorized under s. 11.05 (3) (p), except
19 during the period commencing on December 1 and ending on the day of the
20 succeeding spring election, if the individual is a candidate for a nonpartisan state
21 office at that spring election.

22 (3) This section does not apply to an individual who is a candidate for state
23 office at a special election or a personal campaign committee of such a candidate

