



1995 ASSEMBLY BILL 577

September 25, 1995 - Introduced by Representatives BELL, BALDWIN, GROBSCHMIDT, GRONEMUS, HANDRICK, HUBER, KAUFERT, NOTESTEIN, WASSERMAN, WILDER, L. YOUNG and R. YOUNG, cosponsored by Senator BURKE. Referred to Committee on Elections and Constitutional Law.

1 **AN ACT to create** 11.335 of the statutes; **relating to:** use of state funds to
2 question individuals concerning political party affiliation or support.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill prohibits any state elected official from using state funds for the cost of materials for or distribution of any written communication which contains a question to be answered by the individual to whom it is distributed concerning the individual's membership in, affiliation with, support for or opposition to, or inclination to support or oppose any political party or the candidates of any political party.

Currently, state elected officials may communicate with individuals concerning matters related to their official functions at state expense. There is no express prohibition against communications relating to political party affiliation or support.

Violations of the prohibition created by the bill are subject to a forfeiture (civil penalty) of not more than \$500 for each violation. Intentional violators are guilty of a misdemeanor and may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than 6 months or both.

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

3 **SECTION 1.** 11.335 of the statutes is created to read:
4 **11.335 Questions concerning political party affiliation or support. (1)**
5 No person who is elected to state office may use state funds for the cost of materials
6 for or distribution of any written communication which contains a question to be

1 answered by the individual to whom it is distributed concerning the individual's
2 membership in, affiliation with, support for or opposition to, or inclination to support
3 or oppose any political party or the candidates of any political party.

4 (END)