



2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 519

October 2, 2007 - Introduced by Representatives WASSERMAN, JORGENSEN, BERCEAU, BOYLE, HRAYCHUCK, SEIDEL, SINICKI, SOLETSKI, VAN AKKEREN and VRUWINK, cosponsored by Senators LEHMAN and SULLIVAN. Referred to Committee on Elections and Constitutional Law.

1 **AN ACT to create** 11.24 (4) and 11.60 (3p) of the statutes; **relating to:** acceptance
2 of certain political contributions by certain members of the legislature and
3 committees.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The bill prohibits any incumbent member of the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) or his or her personal campaign or authorized support committee from accepting any political contribution for the purpose of promoting his or her nomination or reelection to the office held by the member during the period from the first Monday in January of each odd-numbered year through the date on which JCF reports the biennial budget bill or bills. The bill also prohibits any incumbent member of a legislative committee of conference or his or her personal campaign or authorized support committee from accepting any political contribution for the purpose of promoting his or her nomination or reelection to the office held by the member during the period beginning on the date that the member is appointed to the committee and ending on the date on which the bill for which the committee is created is either passed and concurred in or indefinitely postponed. The prohibition does not apply to contributions accepted by an incumbent member of the legislature who is subject to a recall election or by the member's personal campaign or authorized support committee from the date on which the petition for a recall election is filed until the date of the recall election.

Violators are subject to a forfeiture (civil penalty) of treble the amount or value of any unlawful contribution. Intentional violators are guilty of a misdemeanor and

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may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than six months or both.

Because this bill creates a new crime or revises a penalty for an existing crime, the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties may be requested to prepare a report concerning the proposed penalty and the costs or savings that are likely to result if the bill is enacted.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 11.24 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

2 11.24 (4) (a) No incumbent member of the joint committee on finance or
3 personal campaign committee or support committee authorized under s. 11.05 (3) (p)
4 of such a member may accept any contribution for the purpose of promoting that
5 member's nomination or reelection to the office held by the member during the period
6 beginning on the first Monday of January in each odd-numbered year and ending
7 on the date on which the joint committee on finance reports the biennial budget bill
8 or bills.

9 (b) No incumbent member of a legislative committee of conference or personal
10 campaign committee or support committee authorized under s. 11.05 (3) (p) of such
11 a member may accept any contribution for the purpose of promoting that member
12 nomination or reelection to the office held by the member during the period
13 beginning on the date that the member is appointed to the committee and ending on
14 the date on which the bill for which the committee is created is either passed and
15 concurred in or indefinitely postponed.

16 (c) Notwithstanding pars. (a) and (b), any incumbent member of the legislature
17 against whom a recall petition has been filed or personal campaign or authorized
18 support committee of such a member may accept a contribution during the period
19 beginning on the date on which the petition is filed under s. 9.10 (3) (b) and ending

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1 on the date of the recall election or the date on which the member resigns if the
2 member resigns at an earlier date under s. 9.10 (3) (c).

3 **SECTION 2.** 11.60 (3p) of the statutes is created to read:

4 11.60 (3p) Notwithstanding sub. (1), any member of the legislature or personal
5 campaign or authorized support committee of such a member who accepts a
6 contribution in violation of s. 11.24 (4) shall forfeit treble the amount of the
7 contribution.

8 (END)