



## 2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 599

October 31, 2023 - Introduced by Representatives RATCLIFF, SINICKI, ORTIZ-VELEZ, CONLEY, J. ANDERSON, EMERSON, SNODGRASS, SUBECK, BALDEH, BARE, SHELTON, CABRERA, CONSIDINE, PALMERI, STUBBS, C. ANDERSON, JOERS and SHANKLAND, cosponsored by Senators LARSON, SPREITZER, TAYLOR, ROYS, L. JOHNSON and HESSELBEIN. Referred to Committee on Campaigns and Elections.

1     **AN ACT** *to renumber* 11.1208 (4); and *to create* 11.1208 (4) (b) of the statutes;  
2           **relating to:** expressly prohibiting a foreign national from making a  
3           contribution to a referendum committee.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Current law provides that no person may make or accept a contribution, make a disbursement, make an expenditure, or incur an obligation in violation of the federal law that prohibits a foreign national from making a contribution in connection with any federal, state, or local election. This bill provides, in addition, that no foreign national may make a contribution to a referendum committee and no referendum committee may accept a contribution from a foreign national. A recent decision by the Federal Elections Commission allowed a foreign national to make a contribution to a ballot initiative committee because the FEC determined that a ballot initiative is not an “election” for purposes of the federal law prohibiting contributions from foreign nationals.

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

4           **SECTION 1.** 11.1208 (4) of the statutes is renumbered 11.1208 (4) (a).  
5           **SECTION 2.** 11.1208 (4) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 599****SECTION 2**

1           11.1208 (4) (b) No foreign national may make a contribution to a referendum  
2 committee and no referendum committee may accept a contribution from a foreign  
3 national. In this paragraph, “foreign national” has the meaning given in 11 CFR  
4 110.20 (a) (3) and 52 USC 30121 (b).

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**(END)**