



1995 ASSEMBLY BILL 998

March 7, 1996 - Introduced by Representatives CARPENTER, BOCK, BALDWIN, HASENOHRL, NOTESTEIN, R. POTTER, ROBSON, SERATTI, R. YOUNG, BOYLE and GROTHMAN, cosponsored by Senators MOEN, DECKER and CLAUSING. Referred to Committee on Elections and Constitutional Law.

1 **AN ACT to create** 11.25 (4) of the statutes; **relating to:** independent
2 disbursements by former personal campaign committees.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, a personal campaign committee may make contributions to candidates other than the candidate whom it is organized to support, subject to applicable contribution limitations. If a candidate dies or ceases to be a candidate, the personal campaign committee remains subject to the same limitations. However, if the committee thereafter files an oath affirming its independence from any candidate, the committee may, in addition to making contributions, make disbursements (expenditures) in an unlimited amount to advocate the election or defeat of a candidate.

This bill provides that if a candidate dies or ceases to be a candidate, and the candidate's personal campaign committee thereafter files an oath affirming its independence of any candidate, the committee may not make any disbursement to advocate the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate that is derived in whole or in part from contributions received by the committee prior to filing the oath in an amount or value exceeding the maximum contribution that the committee is permitted to make to that candidate under contribution limitations currently prescribed by law. Violators are subject to a forfeiture (civil penalty) of not more than \$500 for each violation. Intentional violators may be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than 3 years, or both, unless the amount or value of the violation does not exceed \$100, in which case they 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.** 11.25 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

