



State of Wisconsin
1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

LRBs0368/1
JTK:wlj&kmg:ch

**SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1,
TO 1999 SENATE BILL 181**

March 7, 2000 - Offered by JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

1 **AN ACT to repeal** 11.50 (3) (a) 2.; **to amend** 8.35 (4) (b), 11.12 (2), 11.16 (2) and
2 (3), 11.26 (1) (a), 11.26 (2) (a), 11.26 (9) (a), 11.26 (9) (b), 11.26 (13), 11.31 (1) (d),
3 11.33 (1) (a) (intro.), 11.50 (1) (a) 1. and 11.50 (3) (b); and **to create** 11.26 (1)
4 (am), 11.26 (2) (am), 11.26 (9) (ba), 11.33 (4), 11.501 to 11.522, 20.510 (1) (r),
5 20.585 (1) (q), 20.585 (1) (r), 20.855 (4) (bb), 25.17 (1) (cm) and 25.421 of the
6 statutes; **relating to:** campaign financing with respect to the office of justice
7 of the supreme court, making appropriations and providing penalties.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** 8.35 (4) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:
9 8.35 (4) (b) Notwithstanding par. (a), any unspent and unencumbered moneys
10 received by a candidate from the Wisconsin election campaign fund shall be
11 immediately transferred to any candidate who is appointed to replace such
12 candidate, upon filing of a proper application therefor under s. 11.50 (2). If there is

1 no candidate appointed or if no proper application is filed within 7 days of the date
2 on which the vacancy occurs, such moneys shall revert to the state as provided in s.
3 11.50 (8). Notwithstanding par. (a), any unspent and unencumbered moneys
4 received by a candidate from the democracy trust fund shall be immediately
5 transferred to any candidate who is appointed to replace such candidate. If there is
6 no candidate appointed, the moneys shall revert to the state.

7 **SECTION 2.** 11.12 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 11.12 (2) Any No registrant, except a candidate who receives a public financing
9 benefit from the democracy trust fund, may accept an anonymous contribution
10 exceeding \$10 received by a campaign or committee treasurer or by an individual
11 under s. 11.06 (7) may not be used or expended. The. No candidate who receives a
12 public financing benefit from the democracy trust fund may accept an anonymous
13 contribution exceeding \$5. Any anonymous contribution that may not be accepted
14 under this subsection shall be donated to the common school fund or to any charitable
15 organization at the option of the registrant's treasurer.

16 **SECTION 3.** 11.16 (2) and (3) of the statutes are amended to read:

17 11.16 (2) LIMITATION ON CASH CONTRIBUTIONS. Every Except as provided in s.
18 11.506 (6), every contribution of money exceeding \$50 shall be made by negotiable
19 instrument or evidenced by an itemized credit card receipt bearing on the face the
20 name of the remitter. No treasurer may accept a contribution made in violation of
21 this subsection. The treasurer shall promptly return the contribution, or donate it
22 to the common school fund or to a charitable organization in the event that the donor
23 cannot be identified.

24 (3) FORM OF DISBURSEMENTS. Every Except as authorized under s. 11.511 (1),
25 every disbursement which is made by a registered individual or treasurer from the

1 campaign depository account shall be made by negotiable instrument. Such
2 instrument shall bear on the face the full name of the candidate, committee,
3 individual or group as it appears on the registration statement filed under s. 11.05
4 and where necessary, such additional words as are sufficient to clearly indicate the
5 political nature of the registrant or account of the registrant. The name of a political
6 party shall include the word "party". The instrument of each committee registered
7 with the board and designated under s. 11.05 (3) (c) as a special interest committee
8 shall bear the identification number assigned under s. 11.21 (12) on the face of the
9 instrument.

10 **SECTION 4.** 11.26 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 11.26 (1) (a) Candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state,
12 state treasurer, attorney general, or state superintendent ~~or justice~~, \$10,000.

13 **SECTION 5.** 11.26 (1) (am) of the statutes is created to read:

14 11.26 (1) (am) Candidates for justice, \$1,000.

15 **SECTION 6.** 11.26 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 11.26 (2) (a) Candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state,
17 state treasurer, attorney general, or state superintendent ~~or justice~~, 4% of the value
18 of the disbursement level specified in the schedule under s. 11.31 (1).

19 **SECTION 7.** 11.26 (2) (am) of the statutes is created to read:

20 11.26 (2) (am) Candidates for justice, \$1,000.

21 **SECTION 8.** 11.26 (9) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 11.26 (9) (a) ~~No~~ Except as provided in par. (ba), no individual who is a candidate
23 for state or local office may receive and accept more than 65% of the value of the total
24 disbursement level determined under s. 11.31 for the office for which he or she is a
25 candidate during any primary and election campaign combined from all committees

1 subject to a filing requirement, including political party and legislative campaign
2 committees.

3 **SECTION 9.** 11.26 (9) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 11.26 (9) (b) ~~No Except as provided in par. (ba), no~~ individual who is a candidate
5 for state or local office may receive and accept more than 45% of the value of the total
6 disbursement level determined under s. 11.31 for the office for which he or she is a
7 candidate during any primary and election campaign combined from all committees
8 other than political party and legislative campaign committees subject to a filing
9 requirement.

10 **SECTION 10.** 11.26 (9) (ba) of the statutes is created to read:

11 11.26 (9) (ba) Paragraphs (a) and (b) do not apply to a candidate who receives
12 a public financing benefit from the democracy trust fund.

13 **SECTION 11.** 11.26 (13) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 11.26 (13) Except as provided in sub. (9), contributions received from the
15 Wisconsin election campaign fund and public financing benefits received from the
16 democracy trust fund are not subject to limitation by this section.

17 **SECTION 12.** 11.31 (1) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 11.31 (1) (d) Candidates for secretary of state, state treasurer, justice or state
19 superintendent, \$215,625.

20 **SECTION 13.** 11.33 (1) (a) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 11.33 (1) (a) (intro.) ~~No Except as provided in sub. (4), no~~ person elected to state
22 or local office who becomes a candidate for national, state or local office may use
23 public funds for the cost of materials or distribution for 50 or more pieces of
24 substantially identical material distributed after:

25 **SECTION 14.** 11.33 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

1 11.33 (4) This section does not apply to a candidate for the office of justice.

2 **SECTION 15.** 11.50 (1) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

3 11.50 (1) (a) 1. With respect to a spring or general election, any individual who
4 is certified under s. 7.08 (2) (a) as a candidate in the spring election for justice or state
5 superintendent, or an individual who receives at least 6% of the vote cast for all
6 candidates on all ballots for any state office, except district attorney, for which the
7 individual is a candidate at the September primary and who is certified under s. 7.08
8 (2) (a) as a candidate for that office in the general election, or an individual who has
9 been lawfully appointed and certified to replace either such individual on the ballot
10 at the spring or general election; and who has qualified for a grant under sub. (2).

11 **SECTION 16.** 11.50 (3) (a) 2. of the statutes is repealed.

12 **SECTION 17.** 11.50 (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 11.50 (3) (b) If a vacancy occurs in the office of state superintendent or justice
14 after August 15 in any year and an election is scheduled to fill the vacancy at the
15 spring election in the following year, the state treasurer shall transfer an amount not
16 exceeding 8% of the moneys transferred to the fund on the preceding August 15 to
17 the superintendency account for the office in which the vacancy occurs, such moneys
18 to be drawn from any account within the accounts created under sub. (4) in the
19 amount or amounts specified by the board.

20 **SECTION 18.** 11.501 to 11.522 of the statutes are created to read:

21 **11.501 Definitions.** In ss. 11.501 to 11.522:

22 (1) "Allowable contribution" means a qualifying contribution, seed money
23 contribution or personal contribution authorized under ss. 11.502 to 11.522.

24 (2) "Campaign" has the meaning given in s. 11.26 (17).

1 **(3)** “Election campaign period” means the period beginning on the day after the
2 spring primary election or the day on which a primary election would be held, if
3 required, and ending on the day of the succeeding spring election.

4 **(4)** “Eligible candidate” means a candidate for the office of justice who has an
5 opponent who has qualified to have his or her name certified for placement on the
6 ballot at the spring primary or election and who qualifies for public financing by
7 collecting the required number of qualifying contributions, making all required
8 reports and disclosures, and being certified by the board as being in compliance with
9 ss. 11.502 to 11.522.

10 **(5)** “Excess disbursement amount” means the amount of disbursements made
11 by a noncomplying candidate in excess of the public financing benefit available to an
12 eligible candidate for the same office that the noncomplying candidate seeks.

13 **(6)** “Excess qualifying contribution amount” means the amount of qualifying
14 contributions accepted by a candidate beyond the number or dollar amount of
15 contributions required to qualify a candidate for a public financing benefit.

16 **(7)** “Exploratory period” means the period that begins after the date of a spring
17 election and ends on the first day of the public financing qualifying period for the next
18 election for justice.

19 **(9)** “Immediate family”, when used with reference to a candidate, includes the
20 candidate’s spouse and children.

21 **(10)** “Independent disbursement” means a disbursement by a person expressly
22 advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate which is made
23 without cooperation or consultation with a candidate, or any authorized committee
24 or agent of a candidate, and which is not made in concert with, or at the request or
25 suggestion of, any candidate, or any authorized committee or agent of a candidate.

1 **(11)** “Mass mailing” means a districtwide or statewide mailing of newsletters,
2 pamphlets, brochures or other similar items of more than 100 pieces in which the
3 content of the matter mailed is substantially identical. “Mass mailing” does not
4 include a mailing made in direct response to communications from persons to whom
5 the matter is mailed, a mailing to a federal, state or local government official or a
6 news release to communications media.

7 **(12)** “Noncomplying candidate” means a candidate for the office of justice who
8 does not apply for a public financing benefit or who otherwise is ineligible or fails to
9 qualify for a public financing benefit under ss. 11.502 to 11.522.

10 **(13)** “Personal funds” means funds contributed by a candidate or a member of
11 a candidate’s immediate family.

12 **(14)** “Primary election campaign period” means the period beginning 30 days
13 after the last day prescribed by law for filing nomination papers for that office and
14 ending on the day of the spring primary election for that office or the day on which
15 the primary election would be held, if required.

16 **(15)** “Public financing qualifying period” means the period beginning on the
17 first day of July of any year and ending on the day before the beginning of the primary
18 election campaign period for that office.

19 **(16)** “Qualifying contribution” means a contribution made to a candidate by an
20 elector of the jurisdiction or district in which the candidate seeks office during the
21 public financing qualifying period, which is acknowledged by written receipt
22 identifying the contributor.

23 **(17)** “Seed money contribution” means a contribution in an amount of not more
24 than \$100 made to a candidate by an elector of the jurisdiction or district in which
25 the candidate seeks office during the exploratory period or the public financing

1 qualifying period, or a contribution made to a candidate consisting of personal funds
2 of that candidate in an amount not more than the amount authorized under s. 11.507
3 during the exploratory period or the public financing qualifying period.

4 **11.502 Qualification; certification. (1)** Before a candidate for justice in the
5 primary election may be certified as an eligible candidate to receive a public
6 financing benefit for the primary election campaign period, the candidate shall apply
7 to the board for a public financing benefit and file a sworn statement that the
8 candidate has complied and will comply with all requirements of ss. 11.502 to 11.522
9 throughout the applicable campaign, which includes the primary and election for
10 that office. A candidate shall file the application and statement no later than the
11 beginning of the primary election campaign period for the office that the candidate
12 seeks.

13 **(2)** A candidate shall be certified by the board as an eligible candidate for
14 receipt of public financing for a primary election if the candidate complies with sub.
15 (1) and receives at least 1,000 qualifying contributions in amounts equal to not less
16 than \$5 nor more than \$100 and in an aggregate amount of not less than \$5,000 nor
17 more than \$15,000 before the close of the public financing qualifying period.

18 **(3)** The board shall verify a candidate's compliance with the requirements of
19 sub. (2) by such verification and sampling techniques as the board considers
20 appropriate.

21 **(4)** Each candidate shall:

22 (a) Acknowledge each qualifying contribution by a receipt to the contributor
23 which contains the contributor's name and home address.

24 (b) No later than the 15th or the last day of the month which immediately
25 follows the date of receipt of a qualifying contribution, whichever comes first, file a

1 copy of the receipt under par. (a) with the board, except that during July, August and
2 September a copy need only be filed on the last day of the month.

3 (5) A qualifying contribution may be utilized only for the purpose of making
4 a disbursement authorized by law.

5 **11.503 Time of application.** (1) Before a candidate may be certified as
6 eligible for receipt of public financing for a spring election, the candidate shall apply
7 to the board and file a sworn statement that the candidate has fulfilled all the
8 requirements of ss. 11.502 to 11.522 during the primary election campaign period
9 and will comply with such requirements during the election campaign period. The
10 application shall be filed no later than the 7th day after the date of the spring primary
11 election or the day on which the primary election would be held if a primary were
12 required.

13 (2) The board shall certify a candidate as an eligible candidate for receipt of
14 public financing for a spring election if the candidate complies with sub. (1) and the
15 candidate was an eligible candidate during the primary election campaign period.

16 **11.505 Agreement by candidate.** An eligible candidate who accepts a public
17 financing benefit under ss. 11.502 to 11.522 during the primary election campaign
18 period shall agree to comply with all requirements of ss. 11.502 to 11.522 throughout
19 the election campaign period during the same campaign as a precondition to receipt
20 of public financing. An eligible candidate who accepts a public financing benefit
21 during a primary election campaign period may not elect to accept private
22 contributions in violation of ss. 11.502 to 11.522 during the corresponding election
23 campaign period.

24 **11.506 Requirements imposed upon candidates.** (1) An eligible
25 candidate may not accept private contributions other than seed money contributions

1 and qualifying contributions that the candidate accepts during the exploratory
2 period and the public financing qualifying period.

3 (2) In addition to reports required to be filed under ss. 11.12 (5) and 11.20, a
4 candidate who receives a public financing benefit shall furnish complete financial
5 records, including records of seed money contributions, qualifying contributions and
6 disbursements, to the board on the 15th or the last day of the month that
7 immediately follows the receipt of the contribution or the making of the
8 disbursement, whichever comes first, except that during July, August and
9 September records need only be furnished on the last day of the month. Each such
10 candidate shall cooperate with any audit or examination by the board.

11 (3) In addition to adhering to requirements imposed under ss. 11.06 (5) and
12 11.12 (3), a candidate who receives a public financing benefit shall maintain records
13 of all contributions received by the candidate of more than \$5 but less than \$50,
14 including seed money contributions and qualifying contributions, which shall
15 contain the full name of the contributor and the contributor's full home address. In
16 addition, if a contributor's aggregate contributions to any candidate exceed \$50 for
17 any campaign, the candidate shall also maintain a record of the contributor's
18 principal occupation and the name and business address of the contributor's place
19 of employment.

20 (4) The failure to record or provide the information specified in sub. (3)
21 disqualifies a contribution from counting as a qualifying contribution.

22 (5) No eligible candidate and no person acting on a candidate's behalf may
23 deposit any contribution that is not recorded in accordance with sub. (3) in a
24 candidate's campaign depository account.

1 **(6)** No eligible candidate may accept more than \$25 in cash from any
2 contributor and no such candidate may accept cash from all sources in a total amount
3 greater than one-tenth of 1% of the public financing benefit for the office that the
4 candidate seeks or \$500, whichever is greater.

5 **11.507 Personal funds of candidates.** (1) The personal funds of a candidate
6 contributed as seed money contributions may not exceed an aggregate amount of
7 \$5,000.

8 **(2)** No eligible candidate may make any disbursement derived from personal
9 funds after the close of the public financing qualifying period.

10 **11.508 Seed money contributions.** (1) An eligible candidate may accept
11 seed money contributions from any individual or committee prior to the end of the
12 public financing qualifying period, provided the total contributions from one
13 contributor, except personal funds and qualifying contributions otherwise permitted
14 under ss. 11.502 to 11.522, do not exceed \$100, and the aggregate contributions,
15 including personal funds, but not including qualifying contributions, do not exceed
16 \$5,000.

17 **(2)** An eligible candidate may make disbursements derived from seed money
18 contributions only during the exploratory period and the public financing qualifying
19 period.

20 **11.509 Excess contributions.** If an eligible candidate receives excess seed
21 money contributions or qualifying contributions on an aggregate basis, the
22 candidate may retain the contributions and make disbursements derived from the
23 contributions, in an amount not exceeding \$15,000. An amount equivalent to the
24 excess contributions shall be deducted by the board from the candidate's public
25 financing benefit. A candidate shall return to the board all seed money and

1 qualifying contributions that exceed the limits prescribed in this section within 48
2 hours after the end of the exploratory period. The board shall deposit all
3 contributions returned under this section in the democracy trust fund.

4 **11.51 Certification by candidate. (1)** To apply for a public financing benefit,
5 a candidate shall certify to the board that the candidate has complied and will
6 comply, throughout the applicable campaign, with all requirements of ss. 11.502 to
7 11.522 and that all disclosures required as of the time of application have been made,
8 and shall present evidence of the requisite number of qualifying contributions
9 received by the candidate. The candidate's request for certification shall be signed
10 by the candidate and the candidate's campaign treasurer.

11 **(2)** The board shall distribute to each eligible candidate at the spring primary
12 election a check for the amount of the public financing benefit payable to the
13 candidate promptly after the candidate demonstrates his or her eligibility and, in
14 any event, not later than 5 days after the end of the public financing qualifying
15 period; however, no candidate may utilize a check received under this subsection
16 until the beginning of the primary election campaign period.

17 **(3)** The board shall distribute to each eligible candidate for justice at a spring
18 election a check for the amount of the public financing benefit payable to the
19 candidate not later than 48 hours after the date of the spring primary election for the
20 office of justice, or the date that the primary election would be held if a primary were
21 required. However, no candidate for a particular office shall receive a check until all
22 candidates for the same office who apply and qualify for a public financing benefit
23 have been certified as eligible candidates.

24 **(4)** If any candidate who receives a public financing benefit violates the
25 requirements of ss. 11.502 to 11.522, the board shall require the candidate to repay

1 all public funds received by the candidate to the board. The board shall deposit all
2 repayments received under this subsection in the democracy trust fund.

3 **11.511 Public financing benefits.** (1) The board shall provide to each
4 eligible candidate who qualifies to receive a public financing benefit for the primary
5 or election campaign period separate checks for the public financing benefits payable
6 to the candidate for the primary and election campaign periods in the amounts
7 specified in this section, subject to any required adjustment under s. 11.509, 11.512
8 (2) or 11.519 (2). An eligible candidate may use this public financing benefit to
9 finance any lawful disbursements during the primary and election campaign periods
10 to further the election of the candidate in that primary or election. An eligible
11 candidate may not use this public financing benefit to repay any loan, or in violation
12 of ss. 11.502 to 11.522 or any other applicable law.

13 (2) Except as provided in ss. 11.512 (2) and 11.519 (2), the public financing
14 benefit for a primary election campaign period is \$100,000.

15 (3) Except as provided in ss. 11.512 (2) and 11.519 (2), the public financing
16 benefit for an election campaign period is \$300,000.

17 (4) If there is no spring primary election for the office of justice, no eligible
18 candidate may receive a public financing benefit for the primary election campaign
19 period.

20 (5g) An eligible candidate who receives a public financing benefit in the
21 primary election campaign period and whose name is certified to appear on the ballot
22 at the election following that primary may utilize any unencumbered balance of the
23 public financing benefit received by the candidate in the primary election campaign
24 period for the election campaign period.

1 **(5r)** Except as permitted in sub. (5g), an eligible candidate who receives a
2 public financing benefit and who does not encumber or expend some portion of the
3 benefit for a purpose described in sub. (1) shall return any unencumbered portion of
4 the benefit to the board within 30 days after the primary or election in which the
5 candidate participates.

6 **(6)** Notwithstanding subs. (2) and (3), beginning on July 1, 2002, and every 2
7 years thereafter, the board shall modify the public financing benefits provided for in
8 subs. (2) and (3) to adjust for the change in the consumer price index, all items, U.S.
9 city average, published by the U.S. department of labor for the preceding 2-year
10 period ending on December 31.

11 **11.512 Financial activity by noncomplying candidates.** **(1)** In addition
12 to other reports required by law, a noncomplying candidate for an office at a primary
13 or election who receives contributions or makes or obligates to make disbursements
14 in an amount more than 5% greater than the public financing benefit applicable to
15 an eligible candidate for the same office at the same primary or election shall file a
16 report with the board itemizing the total contributions received and disbursements
17 made or obligated to be made by the candidate as of the date of the report. The board
18 shall transmit copies of the report to all candidates for the same office at the same
19 election. A noncomplying candidate shall file additional reports after the candidate
20 receives each additional \$1,000 of contributions, or the candidate makes or obligates
21 to make each additional \$1,000 of disbursements. If such contributions are received
22 or such disbursements are made or obligated to be made more than 6 weeks prior to
23 the date of the primary election at which the name of the candidate appears on the
24 ballot, or prior to the date that the primary election would be held, if a primary were
25 required, such reports shall be made at the next regular reporting interval under s.

1 11.506. If such contributions are received or such disbursements made or obligated
2 to be made within 6 weeks prior to the date of the primary election at which the name
3 of the candidate appears on the ballot, or within 6 weeks prior to the date that the
4 primary election would be held, if a primary were required, such reports shall be
5 made within 24 hours after each instance in which such contributions are received,
6 or such disbursements are made or obligated to be made.

7 (2) Upon receipt of such information, the state treasurer shall immediately
8 issue a check to an opposing eligible candidate in an additional amount equivalent
9 to the total excess disbursements made or obligated to be made, but not to exceed 3
10 times the public financing benefit for the applicable office.

11 **11.515 Democracy trust fund.** The democracy trust fund shall be
12 administered by the state treasurer.

13 **11.516 Administration.** Except as otherwise specifically provided in ss.
14 11.501 to 11.522, the duties of and authority for administering and enforcing ss.
15 11.501 to 11.522 are vested in the board.

16 **11.517 Penalties; enforcement.** (1) If an eligible candidate makes
17 disbursements that exceed the total amount of the public financing benefit allocated
18 to the candidate for any campaign and the total qualifying and seed money
19 contributions lawfully accepted by the candidate, the candidate may be required to
20 forfeit not more than 10 times the amount by which the disbursements exceed the
21 allocation.

22 (2) Any eligible candidate who accepts contributions in excess of any limitation
23 imposed under ss. 11.502 to 11.522 may be required to forfeit not more than 10 times
24 the amount by which the contributions exceed the applicable limitation.

1 **(3)** If the board finds that there is probable cause to believe that a candidate
2 has made excess disbursements or has accepted excess contributions contrary to sub.
3 (1) or (2), the board shall attempt for a period of not more than 14 days after its
4 finding to correct the matter by informal methods of conference and conciliation and
5 to enter into a settlement and conciliation agreement under s. 5.05 (1) (c) with the
6 person involved. A settlement and conciliation agreement made pursuant to this
7 subsection shall be a matter of public record. Unless violated, a settlement and
8 conciliation agreement is a bar to any civil action under sub. (4).

9 **(4)** If the board has probable cause to believe that a candidate has made excess
10 disbursements or has accepted excess contributions and the board is unable to
11 correct the matter by informal methods within the time prescribed in sub. (3), the
12 board shall make a public finding of probable cause in the matter. After making a
13 public finding, the board shall bring an action in the circuit court for Dane County
14 to impose a forfeiture under sub. (1) or (2).

15 **(5)** If an elector believes that a candidate has violated ss. 11.502 to 11.522 and
16 the elector is entitled to vote for or against the candidate in the election in connection
17 with which the violation is alleged to occur, the elector may file a complaint with the
18 board requesting it to take remedial action. If the board refuses to take remedial
19 action or, within 30 days after the filing of such a complaint, fails to take remedial
20 action, the elector may commence a civil action in the appropriate circuit court under
21 sub. (4) requesting the court to impose a forfeiture under sub. (1) or (2).

22 **(6)** The board and courts shall expedite all proceedings under ss. 11.502 to
23 11.522 so that all complaints brought prior to an election are resolved, to the extent
24 possible, before the election is held.

1 **(7)** If a complaint brought under ss. 11.502 to 11.522 is resolved against the
2 complainant and is found to have been brought in bad faith and without reasonable
3 basis therefor, the board or court may assess costs, including reasonable attorney
4 fees, against the complainant.

5 **11.518 Prohibited acts. (1)** If a candidate or agent of a candidate knowingly
6 accepts more contributions than the candidate is entitled to receive, or makes
7 disbursements exceeding the total amount of the public financing benefit received
8 by the candidate and the qualifying and seed money contributions lawfully received
9 by the candidate, the candidate or agent may be fined not more than \$25,000 or
10 imprisoned for not more than 5 years or both.

11 **(3)** If, in connection with the receipt or disbursement of a public financing
12 benefit for an election campaign, any person knowingly provides false information
13 to the board, or knowingly conceals or withholds information from the board, that
14 person may be fined not more than \$25,000 or imprisoned for not more than 5 years
15 or both.

16 **11.519 Mass mailings. (1)** No person may conduct any mass mailing using
17 state funds on behalf of any person who is a candidate for the office of justice at the
18 spring election during the period between December 1 preceding that election and
19 May 31 following that election.

20 **(2)** If any person uses state funds to conduct a mass mailing on behalf of any
21 person who is a candidate for the office of justice at the spring election during the
22 period between September 1 and November 30 preceding that election, the state
23 treasurer shall immediately issue a check to all other eligible candidates for justice
24 on behalf of whom the mailing is conducted in an amount equal to the cost of printing

1 and mailing of that mass mailing. The additional check may be used solely to fund
2 a mailing promoting the candidacy of the candidate who receives the check.

3 (3) A candidate for justice at the spring election who plans to use state funds
4 for a mass mailing shall notify the board in writing of his or her intent to do so no later
5 than September 1 preceding the spring election, and shall complete the mailing no
6 later than the following November 30.

7 (4) All mass mailings funded by the state on behalf of any person who is a
8 candidate for justice at the spring election during the period between September 1
9 and November 30 preceding that election and all mass mailings authorized under
10 sub. (2) shall be issue oriented and nonpolitical, shall not mention any of a
11 candidate's opponents by name and shall be reviewed and approved by the board for
12 compliance with such requirements in advance of the mailing.

13 (5) Except as permitted under sub. (2), no state funds may be used by any
14 incumbent individual holding the office of justice to conduct a mass mailing on behalf
15 of a candidate for that office at the spring election after November 30 preceding that
16 election.

17 **11.522 Contributions to noncomplying candidates; attributions.** (1) A
18 noncomplying candidate may accept contributions from private sources without
19 limitation, except that no person may make any contribution or contributions to a
20 noncomplying candidate exceeding a total of \$1,000 during any campaign.

21 (2) Any electronic or print communication paid for or authorized by a
22 noncomplying candidate shall contain the following sentence: "This communication
23 is paid for with money raised from private sources. This candidate has not agreed
24 to abide by campaign contribution and spending limits."

1 required to provide public financing benefits that candidates qualify to receive from
2 the democracy trust fund, to be transferred from the general fund to the democracy
3 trust fund no later than the time required to make payments of grants under s. 11.51
4 (2) and (3).

5 **SECTION 24.** 25.17 (1) (cm) of the statutes is created to read:

6 25.17 (1) (cm) Democracy trust fund (s. 25.421);

7 **SECTION 25.** 25.421 of the statutes is created to read:

8 **25.421 Democracy trust fund.** All moneys appropriated under s. 20.855 (4)
9 (bb) and all moneys deposited in the state treasury under ss. 11.509, 11.51 (4) and
10 11.511 (5r) constitute the democracy trust fund, to be expended for the purposes of
11 ss. 11.501 to 11.522.

12 (END)