

1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 234

March 23, 1999 – Introduced by COMMITTEE ON CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS. Referred to Committee on Campaigns and Elections.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 25.42 and 814.61 (1) (a); and *to create* 20.855 (4) (ba) of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** qualification of candidates for justice of the supreme
3 court for grants from the Wisconsin election campaign fund, court fees and
4 making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, a candidate for the office of justice of the supreme court in the spring election may qualify for a grant from the Wisconsin election campaign fund to finance certain campaign expenses. The amount of the grant depends upon the balance in the supreme court account of the fund, which receives 8% of the total amount designated by taxpayers in the year preceding each election for the office of justice. If sufficient moneys are available in the account, a candidate for the office of justice may potentially qualify to receive a grant of \$97,031.

This bill appropriates a sum sufficient from general purpose revenue to enable all eligible candidates for the office of justice to receive the maximum grant to which they are entitled. The proposal is effective for grants made on or after January 1, 2001.

The bill also increases the court filing fee by \$1 in most civil actions commenced in circuit court, but not in garnishment, wage earner or small claims actions.

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For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 20.855 (4) (ba) of the statutes is created to read:

2 20.855 (4) (ba) *Election fund supplement.* A sum sufficient to supplement the
3 supreme court account of the Wisconsin election campaign fund for the purpose of
4 enabling all eligible candidates for justice to receive the maximum grant for which
5 the candidates qualify under s. 11.50 (9), to be transferred from the general fund to
6 the Wisconsin election campaign fund no later than the time required to enable
7 timely payments to be made under s. 11.50 (5).

8 **SECTION 2.** 25.42 of the statutes is amended to read:

9 **25.42 Wisconsin election campaign fund.** All moneys appropriated under
10 s. 20.855 (4) (b) and (ba) together with all moneys reverting to the state under s. 11.50
11 (8) and all gifts, bequests and devises received under s. 11.50 (13) constitute the
12 Wisconsin election campaign fund, to be expended for the purposes of s. 11.50. All
13 moneys in the fund not disbursed by the state treasurer shall continue to accumulate
14 indefinitely.

15 **SECTION 3.** 814.61 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 814.61 (1) (a) Except as provided under pars. (c) and (d), at the commencement
17 of all civil actions and special proceedings not specified in ss. 814.62 to 814.66, \$75
18 \$76. Of the fees received by the clerk under this paragraph, the county treasurer
19 shall pay \$45 \$46 to the state treasurer for deposit in the general fund and shall
20 retain the balance for the use of the county. The state treasurer shall credit \$15 of
21 the \$45 \$46 to the appropriation under s. 20.680 (2) (j).

