DRAFTER'S NOTE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

January 16, 2002

Representative Pocan:

Currently, a political committee such as a political party is generally prohibited under s. 11.25 (2) (a), stats. from making a disbursement from moneys solicited for political purposes [as defined in s. 11.01 (16), stats.] for a purpose which is other than political. An "issue advocacy" expenditure might not necessarily fall within the definition of "political purpose." As a result, while it might be possible for a political party to make a contribution to a committee that was making traditional independent disbursements as well as issue advocacy expenditures, it might not be possible for a political party to knowingly finance "issue advocacy" expenditures (in this amendment, "independent expenditures"). Therefore, this amendment would only reach activity that is not currently prohibited.

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