

DRAFTER'S NOTE
FROM THE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

LRB-2872/P1dnRM
RJM&JTK:.....

. This draft is in preliminary form and does not completely reflect your instructions. We wanted to get you as much of the draft as soon as possible in order to facilitate a timely review. The items from your instructions that are not included at this time relate to the tax deduction for media outlets, equal access for candidates to public broadcasting and cable access television,

. Under the bill, state party committee PAC limits include amounts contributed to state sub-units and state affiliates, but not to local party committees and their local sub-units and local affiliates. Similarly, the local party committee PAC limits include amounts contributed to local sub-units and local affiliates, but not to state party committees and their state sub-units and state affiliates. See proposed s. 11.26 (8). This approach applies the limit to all party committees that are likely aware of each other's activities and prevents a committee that is subject to a limit from spinning off an unlimited number of subunits and affiliates, each of which could accept contributions up to the applicable maximum amount. Please let us know if this approach is not consistent with your intent.

The local party committee PAC limits established under the bill are dependent upon the population of they county in which the local party committee primarily operates. Please let us know if this treatment is not consistent with your intent.

. This bill establishes contribution and disbursement limits that are dependent upon the population of certain areas. This bill includes a procedure for the elections board to determine and publish these populations. See proposed s. 11.263. Generally, the determinations must be based upon the best available data from the federal decennial census. Please let us know if you desire any changes.

. This bill repeals the checkoff procedure for funding the Wisconsin election campaign fund and replaces it with a procedure that allows individuals, committees, and other persons to make donations to the fund and that allows individuals to claim a tax credit of up to \$5. The bill needs to address the transition between the current method of funding and the new procedure established in the bill. One option would be to divide amounts in the fund on the day the bill takes effect between the account of each eligible political party and the general account. Please let us know how you would like to address this transition.

. The new method of funding the Wisconsin election campaign fund may underfund grants for non-partisan candidates. If a significant majority of donations are made for the account of political parties, the general account may be underfunded. You may want to include a procedure that would draw equally from the political party accounts in order to make up for any underfunding of grants to non-partisan candidates.