

2005-06 SESSION

COMMITTEE HEARING RECORDS

Assembly Committee on Campaigns & Elections (AC-CE)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **05hr_AC-CE_Misc_pt24**

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

*Terry C. Anderson, Director
Laura D. Rose, Deputy Director*

TO: REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN FREESE

FROM: Robert J. Conlin, ^{RF} Senior Staff Attorney

RE: 2005 Assembly Bill 452 and Assembly Substitute Amendment 1, Relating to the Acceptance of Certain Political Contributions by Certain Elected Officials

DATE: October 10, 2005

This memorandum describes 2005 Assembly Bill 452 and Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to the bill, both of which relate to the acceptance of certain political contributions by certain elected officials. The bill was introduced by Representative Travis and others and was cosponsored by Senator Erpenbach. The bill was referred to the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections, which has scheduled a public hearing on the bill for October 13, 2005. Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Travis on June 1, 2005.

Current Law

Current campaign financing laws place various limits on political contributions made to candidates for public office. Current law includes limits on the amounts that may be contributed to candidates based upon the office to which the recipient seeks election and the type of entity making the contribution. In addition, current law generally requires recipients of campaign contributions to periodically report those contributions and to identify the contributors.

2005 Assembly Bill 452

The bill prohibits an incumbent partisan state elective official or personal campaign or support committees of such an official from accepting any contribution for the purpose of promoting that official's nomination or reelection to the office held by the official during the period of time beginning with the commencement of the legislative session in each odd-numbered year (i.e., the first Monday in January of odd-numbered years) and extending through the final general business floor period of the legislative session in the following year. This prohibition would not apply to such an official or a committee of such an official from the time that a recall petition has been filed against the official through the date of the recall election or the date on which the official resigns if earlier than the date of the election. An official who violates this provision is subject to a civil forfeiture of treble the amount of

the contribution accepted. An official who intentionally violates this provision may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

In addition, the bill prohibits an individual who holds a state or local office and the personal campaign or support committees of such an individual from making any disbursement for the purpose of promoting the candidacy of that individual for a state or local office other than the office held by the individual or for a national office from funds or property acquired prior to the date on which the individual or committee files a campaign finance registration statement indicating the office that the individual seeks. The bill also prohibits an individual who holds a national office and the personal campaign or support committee of such an individual from making any disbursement for the purpose of promoting the candidacy of that individual for a state or local office from funds or property acquired prior to the date on which the individual or committee files a campaign finance registration statement indicating the office that the individual seeks. An individual who violates these provisions is subject to a forfeiture of up to \$500 for each violation. Intentional violators are subject to a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than three years and six months, or both, if the violation concerns an amount that exceeds \$100, or are subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both, if the violation concerns an amount that does not exceed \$100.

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 is identical to the bill but contains an effective date of January 1, 2007.

If you have questions about this memorandum, please contact me at the Legislative Council staff offices.

RJC:tlu