

2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 155

March 12, 2007 – Introduced by Representatives BIES, GUNDERSON, HINES, POCAN, VAN ROY and VOS, cosponsored by Senators A. LASEE and OLSEN. Referred to Committee on Elections and Constitutional Law.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 11.21 (16) and 11.20 (4); and *to create* 11.12 (5m) and 11.20
2 (8) (bm) and (cm) of the statutes; **relating to:** filing requirements for
3 candidates for partisan state office under the campaign finance law.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, with limited exemptions, registrants under the campaign finance law must file continuing campaign finance reports on a semiannual basis. In addition, registrants may be subject to other filing requirements if they engage in financial activity with respect to an election.

This bill provides that each candidate for a partisan state office or the candidate's personal campaign committee must file an additional continuing report in April and October of each odd-numbered year and in April of each even-numbered year unless exempted from the filing requirement under current law. Under the bill, the Elections Board (Government Accountability Board sometime on or after September 1, 2007) may require the new reports to be filed electronically.

Currently, if a candidate for state office or a committee or individual receives cumulative contributions of \$500 or more after the closing date for submittal of the preelection campaign finance report filed by the candidate, committee, or individual, the candidate, committee, or individual must report to the Elections Board, within 24 hours of receipt, the information pertaining to the contributions that would otherwise be reported. This bill extends this reporting requirement to apply to any contribution of \$500 or more that is received by a candidate for partisan state office

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or his or her personal campaign committee but requires the report to be filed in cases not covered by current law within 15 days of receipt.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 11.12 (5m) of the statutes is created to read:

2 11.12 **(5m)** If any contribution of \$500 or more is received by a candidate for
3 a partisan state office or his or her personal campaign committee from a single
4 contributor and the contribution is not reported under sub. (5), the candidate's
5 campaign treasurer shall within 15 days of receipt inform the board of the
6 information concerning the contribution required under s. 11.06 (1) in such manner
7 as the board may prescribe. The information shall also be included in the treasurer's
8 next regular report.

9 **SECTION 2.** 11.20 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 11.20 **(4)** Continuing reports under s. 11.06 (1) by committees or individuals
11 supporting or opposing candidates for office, including committees of a political
12 party, and by individuals, groups or corporations supporting or opposing a
13 referendum shall be received by the appropriate filing officer no earlier than January
14 1 and no later than January 31; and no earlier than July 1 and no later than July 20.
15 In addition, continuing reports under s. 11.06 (1) by candidates for partisan state
16 office or their personal campaign committees shall be received by the appropriate
17 filing officer no earlier than April 1 and no later than April 20, and no earlier than
18 October 1 and no later than October 20 in each odd-numbered year; and no earlier
19 than April 1 and no later than April 20 in each even-numbered year. Individuals,
20 committees, groups and corporations to which s. 11.055 (1) applies shall pay the fee

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1 imposed under that subsection with their continuing reports filed in January of each
2 year.

3 **SECTION 3.** 11.20 (8) (bm) and (cm) of the statutes are created to read:

4 11.20 **(8)** (bm) March 31 in the case of the continuing report required by April
5 20.

6 (cm) September 30 in the case of the continuing report required by October 20.

7 **SECTION 4.** 11.21 (16) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 11.21 **(16)** Require each registrant for whom the board serves as filing officer
9 and who or which accepts contributions in a total amount or value of \$20,000 or more
10 during a campaign period to file each campaign finance report that is required to be
11 filed under this chapter in an electronic format, and accept from any other registrant
12 for whom the board serves as a filing officer any campaign finance report that is
13 required to be filed under this chapter in an electronic format. The board may also
14 require any registrant who or which is required to file a continuing report that is due
15 by April 20 or October 20 to file the report electronically. A registrant who or which
16 becomes subject to a requirement to file reports in an electronic format under this
17 subsection shall initially file the registrant's report in an electronic format for the
18 period which includes the date on which the registrant becomes subject to the
19 requirement. To facilitate implementation of this subsection, the board shall specify,
20 by rule, a type of software that is suitable for compliance with the electronic filing
21 requirement under this subsection. The board shall provide copies of the software
22 to registrants at a price fixed by the board that may not exceed cost. Each registrant
23 who or which files a report under this subsection in an electronic format shall also
24 file a copy of the report with the board that is recorded on a medium specified by the
25 board. The copy shall be signed by an authorized individual and filed with the board

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1 by each registrant no later than the time prescribed for filing of the report under this
2 chapter. The board shall provide complete instructions to any registrant who or
3 which files a report under this subsection. In this subsection, the “campaign period”
4 of a candidate, personal campaign committee or support committee begins and ends
5 with the “campaign” of the candidate whose candidacy is supported, as defined in s.
6 11.26 (17), and the “campaign period” of any other registrant begins on January 1 of
7 each odd-numbered year and ends on December 31 of the following year.

8 **SECTION 5. Initial applicability.**

9 (1) This act first applies with respect to the filing of reports for reporting periods
10 that begin on or after the effective date of this subsection.

11 (END)