



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRBa1167/1
JK&TKK:emw

**SENATE AMENDMENT 2,
TO ASSEMBLY BILL 387**

November 6, 2015 – Offered by Senators MILLER, VINEHOUT, HARRIS DODD, BEWLEY, RINGHAND, C. LARSON, L. TAYLOR, CARPENTER, WIRCH, HANSEN, LASSA, SHILLING and RISSER.

1 At the locations indicated, amend the engrossed bill as follows:

2 **1.** Page 14, line 9: after that line insert:

3 **“11.001 Declaration of policy. (1)** The legislature finds and declares that our
4 democratic system of government can be maintained only if the electorate is
5 informed. It further finds that excessive spending on campaigns for public office
6 jeopardizes the integrity of elections. It is desirable to encourage the broadest
7 possible participation in financing campaigns by all citizens of the state, and to
8 enable candidates to have an equal opportunity to present their programs to the
9 voters. One of the most important sources of information to the voters is available
10 through the campaign finance reporting system. Campaign reports provide
11 information which aids the public in fully understanding the public positions taken
12 by a candidate or political organization. When the true source of support or extent
13 of support is not fully disclosed, or when a candidate becomes overly dependent upon

1 large private contributors, the democratic process is subjected to a potential
2 corrupting influence. The legislature therefore finds that the state has a compelling
3 interest in designing a system for fully disclosing contributions and disbursements
4 made on behalf of every candidate for public office, and in placing reasonable
5 limitations on such activities. Such a system must make readily available to the
6 voters complete information as to who is supporting or opposing which candidate or
7 cause and to what extent, whether directly or indirectly. This chapter is intended to
8 serve the public purpose of stimulating vigorous campaigns on a fair and equal basis
9 and to provide for a better informed electorate.

10 (2) This chapter is also intended to ensure fair and impartial elections by
11 precluding officeholders from utilizing the perquisites of office at public expense in
12 order to gain an advantage over nonincumbent candidates who have no perquisites
13 available to them.

14 (3) This chapter is declared to be enacted pursuant to the power of the state to
15 protect the integrity of the elective process and to assure the maintenance of free
16 government.”.

17 (END)