

2017 DRAFTING REQUEST

Bill

For: Frederick Kessler (608) 266-5813 Drafter: tkuczens
 By: Ritch Secondary Drafters:
 Date: 11/18/2016 May Contact:
 Same as LRB:

Submit via email: YES
 Requester's email: Rep.Kessler@legis.wisconsin.gov
 Carbon copy (CC) to: tracy.kuczenski@legis.wisconsin.gov
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Pre Topic:

No specific pre topic given

Topic:

Venue for trial and prosecution of certain criminal and civil offenses

Instructions:

Reverse provisions of 07 Act 1 that changed venue for trial and responsibility for prosecution of certain criminal and civil offenses (Redraft 2015 AB-463)

Drafting History:

<u>Vers.</u>	<u>Drafted</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Jacketed</u>	<u>Required</u>
/?	tkuczens 11/22/2016	jdyer 11/29/2016			
/1			mbarman 11/29/2016	hkohn 11/29/2016	

FE Sent For: <END>

↪ Not Needed

Kuczenski, Tracy

From: Williams, Ritch
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 11:23 AM
To: Kuczenski, Tracy
Subject: Rep Kessler Bill Draft Request

Tracy –

Representative Kessler would like to have 2015 AB 463 (LRB 3160/1) redrafted for introduction in the upcoming session. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Ritch Williams
Office of Rep. Kessler



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE
2017-2018

0852/1

LRB-3160/1

TKK: [initials] jld
Rau/R

2017

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 463

insert

in 11/22 wanted 11-29
11/28 a.m.

October 27, 2015 - Introduced by Representatives KESSLER, WACHS, HESSELBEIN, HEBL, DOYLE, BROSTOFF, SPREITZER, C. TAYLOR, BERCEAU, ZAMARRIPA, BILLINGS, JOHNSON, POPE and OHNSTAD, cosponsored by Senators L. TAYLOR, LASSA, RINGHAND and RISSER. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

4. Gen

1 AN ACT to repeal 801.50 (5t), 801.64, 971.19 (12) and 971.223; and to amend
2 5.05 (1) (c), 5.05 (2m) (a), 5.05 (2m) (c) 4., 5.05 (2m) (c) 11., 5.05 (2m) (c) 14., 5.05
3 (2m) (i), 5.08, 6.56 (4), 11.22 (4), 11.60 (4), 11.61 (2), 12.13 (5) (a), 801.52, 971.225
4 (1) (intro.), 978.05 (1) and 978.05 (2) of the statutes; relating to: the
5 prosecution and venue for trial of certain offenses by certain state residents.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill changes the venue for trials involving violations of elections, ethics, and lobbying regulation laws. ✓

Elections Commission

Under current law, with certain limited exceptions, civil violations of the elections, ethics, and lobbying regulation laws and of all other laws arising from or in relation to the official functions of the subject of an investigation or any matter that relates to elections, ethics, or lobbying regulation that are alleged to be committed by a resident of this state are prosecuted by the Government Accountability Board (board) or by the district attorney for the prosecutorial unit (in most cases, the county) where the subject resides. With similar exceptions, civil violations of these laws by nonresidents are prosecuted by the board or by the district attorney for the prosecutorial unit where an alleged violation occurs. Criminal violations of these laws are prosecuted solely by the same district attorney, subject to the same exceptions. With certain limited exceptions, the trial in any such civil or criminal prosecution of a resident of this state, as well as in any lobbying license revocation action brought by the board, is held in circuit court for the county where

Elections Commission

commission

Insert analysis ✓

ASSEMBLY BILL 463

the subject resides. With similar exceptions, the trial in any such civil or criminal prosecution of a nonresident of this state is held in circuit court for the county where an alleged violation occurs. ✓

This bill provides, with similar exceptions, that all such civil violations shall be prosecuted by the board or by the district attorney for the prosecutorial unit where an alleged violation occurs, irrespective of the residence of the defendant. The bill also provides, with similar exceptions, that all such criminal violations shall be prosecuted solely by the district attorney for the prosecutorial unit where an alleged violation occurs, irrespective of the residence of the defendant. In addition, the bill provides, with limited exceptions, that the trial in any such civil or criminal prosecution, as well as in any lobbying license revocation action brought by the board, shall be held in circuit court for the county where the alleged violation occurs. Under the bill, the board has no responsibility for prosecution of any violations other than violations of the elections, ethics, and lobbying regulation laws. ✓

The bill also deletes a statutory restriction on the disclosure of certain information related to the investigation or prosecution of laws arising from or in relation to the official functions of the person who is investigated or prosecuted. Under the bill, the information may still be withheld if other laws authorize or require the information to be withheld or if the custodian can demonstrate that the public interest requires withholding. ✓

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

SECTION 1. 5.05 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

5.05 (1) (c) Bring civil actions to require a forfeiture for any violation of chs. 5 to 12, subch. III of ch. 13, or subch. III of ch. 19 or a license revocation for any violation of subch. III of ch. 13 for which the offender is subject to a revocation. The board may compromise and settle any civil action or potential action brought or authorized to be brought by it which, in the opinion of the board, constitutes a minor violation, a violation caused by excusable neglect, or which for other good cause shown, should not in the public interest be prosecuted under such chapter. Notwithstanding s. 778.06, a civil action or proposed civil action authorized under this paragraph may be settled for such sum as may be agreed between the parties. Any settlement made by the board shall be in such amount as to deprive the alleged violator of any benefit

Insert 2-1 ✓

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1 of his or her wrongdoing and may contain a penal component to serve as a deterrent
2 to future violations. In settling civil actions or proposed civil actions, the board shall
3 treat comparable situations in a comparable manner and shall assure that any
4 settlement bears a reasonable relationship to the severity of the offense or alleged
5 offense. ~~Except as otherwise provided in sub. (2m) (c) 15. and 16. and ss. 5.08, 5.081,~~
6 ~~and 19.59 (8), forfeiture~~ Forfeiture and license revocation actions brought by the
7 board shall be brought in the circuit court for the county ~~where the defendant resides,~~
8 ~~or if the defendant is a nonresident of this state, in circuit court for the county~~
9 ~~wherein the violation is alleged to occur. For purposes of this paragraph, a person~~
10 ~~other than a natural person resides within a county if the person's principal place of~~
11 ~~operation is located within that county. Whenever the board enters into a settlement~~
12 ~~agreement with an individual who is accused of a civil violation of chs. 5 to 12, subch.~~
13 ~~III of ch. 13, or subch. III of ch. 19 or who is investigated by the board for a possible~~
14 ~~civil violation of one of those provisions, the board shall reduce the agreement to~~
15 ~~writing, together with a statement of the board's findings and reasons for entering~~
16 ~~into the agreement and shall retain the agreement and statement in its office for~~
17 ~~inspection.~~

18 **SECTION 2.** 5.05 (2m) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 5.05 (2m) (a) The board shall investigate violations of laws administered by the
20 board and may prosecute alleged civil violations of those laws, directly or through its
21 agents under this subsection, pursuant to all statutes granting or assigning that
22 authority or responsibility to the board. ~~Prosecution of alleged criminal violations~~
23 ~~investigated by the board may be brought only as provided in par. (c) 11., 14., 15., and~~
24 ~~16. and s. 978.05 (1).~~

25 **SECTION 3.** 5.05 (2m) (c) 4. of the statutes is amended to read:

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SECTION 3

1 5.05 (2m) (c) 4. If the board reviews a complaint and fails to find that there is
2 a reasonable suspicion that a violation under subd. 2. has occurred or is occurring,
3 the board shall dismiss the complaint. If the board believes that there is reasonable
4 suspicion that a violation under subd. 2. has occurred or is occurring, the board may
5 by resolution authorize the commencement of an investigation. The resolution shall
6 specifically set forth any matter that is authorized to be investigated. To assist in
7 the investigation, the board may elect to retain a special investigator. If the board
8 elects to retain a special investigator, the administrator of the ethics and
9 accountability division shall submit to the board the names of 3 qualified individuals
10 to serve as a special investigator. The board may retain one or more of the
11 individuals. If Unless another prosecutor has jurisdiction to prosecute the alleged
12 violation, if the board retains a special investigator to investigate a complaint
13 against a person who is a resident of this state alleging a violation under subd. 2.,
14 the board shall provide to the district attorney for the county ~~in which the person~~
15 ~~resides~~ where the violation is alleged to occur a copy of the complaint and shall notify
16 the district attorney that it has retained a special investigator to investigate the
17 complaint. ~~For purposes of this subdivision, a person other than a natural person~~
18 ~~resides within a county if the person's principal place of operation is located within~~
19 ~~that county.~~ If another prosecutor has jurisdiction to prosecute the alleged violation,
20 the board shall provide the copy of the complaint and notification to that prosecutor
21 or the person having authority to appoint that prosecutor. The board shall enter into
22 a written contract with any individual who is retained as a special investigator
23 setting forth the terms of the engagement. A special investigator who is retained by
24 the board may request the board to issue a subpoena to a specific person or to
25 authorize the special investigator to request a circuit court to issue a search warrant.

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1 The board may grant the request by approving a motion to that effect at a meeting
2 of the board if the board finds that such action is legally appropriate.

3 SECTION 4. 5.05 (2m) (c) 11. of the statutes is amended to read:

4 5.05 (2m) (c) 11. If the ^{✓ commission ← plain} board finds that there is probable cause to believe that
5 a violation under subd. 2. has occurred or is occurring, the ^{commission ← plain} board may, in lieu of civil
6 prosecution of any matter by the ^{✓ commission ← plain} board, refer the matter to the district attorney for
7 the county ~~in which the alleged violator resides, or if the alleged violator is a~~
8 ~~nonresident, to the district attorney for the county where the matter arises, having~~
9 jurisdiction to prosecute the alleged violation, or if subd. 16. or par. (i) applies, to the
10 attorney general or a special prosecutor. For purposes of this subdivision, a person
11 other than a natural person resides within a county if the person's principal place of
12 operation is located within that county.

13 SECTION 5. 5.05 (2m) (c) 14. of the statutes is amended to read:

14 5.05 (2m) (c) 14. If a special investigator or the administrator of the ethics and
15 accountability division of the board, in the course of an investigation authorized by
16 the board, discovers evidence of a potential violation of a law that is not administered
17 by the board arising from or in relation to the official functions of the subject of the
18 investigation or any matter that involves elections, ethics, or lobbying regulation,
19 the special investigator or the administrator may present that evidence to the board.
20 The board may thereupon refer the matter to the appropriate district attorney
21 specified except as otherwise provided in subd. 11.

22 SECTION 6. 5.05 (2m) (i) of the statutes is amended to read:

23 5.05 (2m) (i) If ~~the defendant in an action for a~~ an alleged criminal violation
24 of chs. 5 to 12, subch. III of ch. 13, or subch. III of ch. 19 is concerns a district attorney
25 or a circuit judge or a candidate for either such office, the action shall be brought by

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Insert 5-13 ✓

ASSEMBLY BILL 463**SECTION 6**

1 the attorney general. ~~If the defendant in an action for a~~ an alleged criminal violation
2 of chs. 5 to 12, subch. III of ch. 13, or subch. III of ch. 19 ~~is~~ concerns the attorney
3 general or a candidate for that office, the board may appoint a special prosecutor to
4 conduct the prosecution on behalf of the state.

5 **SECTION 7.** 5.08 of the statutes is amended to read:

6 **5.08 Petition for enforcement.** In addition to or in lieu of filing a complaint,
7 any elector may file a verified petition alleging such facts as are within his or her
8 knowledge to indicate that an election official has failed or is failing to comply with
9 any law regulating the conduct of elections or election campaigns or proposes to act
10 in a manner inconsistent with such a law, and requesting that an action be
11 commenced for injunctive relief, a writ of mandamus or prohibition or other such
12 legal or equitable relief as may be appropriate to compel compliance with the law.
13 ~~The~~ Unless another prosecutor has jurisdiction to prosecute the alleged failure to
14 comply, the petition shall be filed with the district attorney for the county having
15 jurisdiction to prosecute the alleged failure to comply ~~under s. 978.05 (1) and (2).~~ If
16 another prosecutor has jurisdiction to prosecute the alleged failure to comply, the
17 petition shall be filed with that prosecutor or the person having authority to appoint
18 that prosecutor. The district attorney or other prosecutor may then commence the
19 action or dismiss the petition. If the district attorney or other prosecutor declines to
20 act upon the petition or if the district attorney fails to act upon the petition within
21 15 days of the date of filing, the petitioner may file the same petition with the
22 attorney general, who may then commence the action.

23 **SECTION 8.** 6.56 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 6.56 (4) After each election, the municipal clerk shall perform an audit to
25 assure that no person has been allowed to vote more than once. Whenever the

1 municipal clerk has good reason to believe that a person has voted more than once
2 in an election, the clerk shall send the person a 1st class letter marked in accordance
3 with postal regulations to ensure that it will be returned to the clerk if the elector
4 does not reside at the address given on the letter. The letter shall inform the person
5 that all registrations relating to that person may be changed from eligible to
6 ineligible status within 7 days unless the person contacts the office of the clerk to
7 clarify the matter. A copy of the letter and of any subsequent information received
8 from or about the addressee shall be sent to the district attorney for the county where
9 the person resides any potential violation occurs and the board.

commission ← plain

10 SECTION 9. 11.22 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 11.22 (4) Notify the board and the district attorney, ~~or the attorney general~~
12 ~~where appropriate under s. 5.05 (2m) (i),~~ in writing, of any facts within the filing
13 officer's knowledge or evidence in the officer's possession, including errors or
14 discrepancies in reports or statements and delinquencies in filing which may be
15 grounds for civil action or criminal prosecution. The filing officer shall transmit a
16 copy of such notification to the board. The board and the district attorney or the
17 attorney general shall advise the filing officer in writing at the end of each 30-day
18 period of the status of such matter until the time of disposition.

19 SECTION 10. 11.60 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 11.60 (4) Except as otherwise provided in ss. s. 5.05 (2m) (c) 15. and 16. and (h),
21 5.08, and 5.081, actions under this section may be brought by the board or by the
22 district attorney for the county where the ~~defendant resides or, if the defendant is a~~
23 ~~nonresident, by the district attorney for the county where the violation is alleged to~~
24 ~~have occurred.~~ For purposes of this subsection, a person other than a natural person
25 ~~resides within a county if the person's principal place of operation is located within~~

Insert 7-10 | ✓

ASSEMBLY BILL 463

SECTION 10

1 that county violation is alleged to have occurred. If a violation concerns a district
2 attorney or circuit judge or candidate for either such office, the action shall be
3 brought by the attorney general. If a violation concerns the attorney general or a
4 candidate for such office, the board may appoint special counsel to bring suit on
5 behalf of the state.

6 **SECTION 11.** 11.61 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 11.61 (2) Except as otherwise provided in ~~ss. s. 5.05 (2m) (c) 15. and 16. and (i),~~
8 ~~5.08, and 5.081,~~ all prosecutions under this section shall be conducted by the district
9 attorney for the county where the defendant resides or, if the defendant is a
10 nonresident, by the district attorney for the county where the violation is alleged to
11 have occurred. For purposes of this subsection, a person other than a natural person
12 resides within a county if the person's principal place of operation is located within
13 that county violation is alleged to have occurred. In addition to the remedy provided
14 in s. 5.05 (2m) (c) 15. to 17., if the district attorney refuses to act upon a sworn
15 complaint, or fails to act upon such a complaint within 60 days of the date on which
16 the complaint is received, the attorney general may then conduct the prosecution
17 under this section. If a violation concerns a district attorney or circuit judge or
18 candidate for either such office, the prosecution shall be conducted by the attorney
19 general. If a violation concerns the attorney general or a candidate for such office,
20 the board may appoint a special prosecutor to conduct the prosecution on behalf of
21 the state.

22 **SECTION 12.** 12.13 (5) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

23 12.13 (5) (a) Except as specifically authorized by law and except as provided
24 in par. (b), no investigator, prosecutor, employee of an investigator or prosecutor, or
25 member or employee of the board may disclose information related to an

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1 investigation or prosecution under chs. 5 to 12, subch. III of ch. 13, or subch. III of
2 ch. 19 or any other law specified in s. 978.05 (1) or (2) or provide access to any record
3 of the investigator, prosecutor, or the board that is not subject to access under s. 5.05
4 (5s) to any person other than an employee or agent of the prosecutor or investigator
5 or a member, employee, or agent of the board prior to presentation of the information
6 or record in a court of law.

7 **SECTION 13.** 801.50 (5t) of the statutes is repealed.

8 **SECTION 14.** 801.52 of the statutes is amended to read:

9 **801.52 Discretionary change of venue.** The court may at any time, upon
10 its own motion, the motion of a party or the stipulation of the parties, change the
11 venue to any county in the interest of justice or for the convenience of the parties or
12 witnesses, except that venue in a civil action to impose a forfeiture for a violation of
13 chs. 5 to 12, subch. III of ch. 13, or subch. III of ch. 19 or for a violation of any other
14 law arising from or in relation to the official functions of the subject of the
15 investigation or any matter that involves elections, ethics, or lobbying regulation
16 under chs. 5 to 12, subch. III of ch. 13, or subch. III of ch. 19, may be changed only
17 as provided in s. 971.223 (1) and (2) or in the same manner that is authorized for a
18 change in the venue of a criminal trial under s. 971.22. This section does not apply
19 to proceedings under ch. 980.

20 **SECTION 15.** 801.64 of the statutes is repealed.

21 **SECTION 16.** 971.19 (12) of the statutes is repealed.

22 **SECTION 17.** 971.223 of the statutes is repealed.

23 **SECTION 18.** 971.225 (1) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 971.225 (1) (intro.) In lieu of changing the place of trial under s. 971.22 (3) or
25 971.223, the court may require the selection of a jury under sub. (2) if:

ASSEMBLY BILL 463

SECTION 19

1 **SECTION 19.** 978.05 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 978.05 (1) **CRIMINAL ACTIONS.** Except as otherwise provided by law, prosecute
3 all criminal actions before any court within his or her prosecutorial unit and have
4 sole responsibility for prosecution of all criminal actions arising from violations of
5 chs. 5 to 12, subch. III of ch. 13, or subch. III of ch. 19 and from violations of other
6 laws arising from or in relation to the official functions of the subject of the
7 investigation or any matter that involves elections, ethics, or lobbying regulation
8 under chs. 5 to 12, subch. III of ch. 13, or subch. III of ch. 19, that are alleged to be
9 committed by a resident of his or her prosecutorial unit, or if alleged to be committed
10 by a nonresident of this state, that are alleged to occur in his or her prosecutorial unit
11 unless another prosecutor is substituted under s. 5.05 (2m) (i) or this chapter or by
12 referral of the government accountability board under s. 5.05 (2m) (c) 15. or 16. For
13 purposes of this subsection, a person other than a natural person is a resident of a
14 prosecutorial unit if the person's principal place of operation is located in that
15 prosecutorial unit.

16 **SECTION 20.** 978.05 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 978.05 (2) **FORFEITURES.** Except as otherwise provided by law, prosecute all
18 state forfeiture actions, county traffic actions and actions concerning violations of
19 county ordinances which are in conformity with state criminal laws in the courts
20 within his or her prosecutorial unit and have joint responsibility, together with the
21 government accountability board, for prosecution of all forfeiture actions arising
22 from violations of chs. 5 to 12, subch. III of ch. 13, or subch. III of ch. 19 and from
23 violations of other laws arising from or in relation to the official functions of the
24 subject of the investigation or any matter that involves elections, ethics, or lobbying
25 regulation under chs. 5 to 12, subch. III of ch. 13, or subch. III of ch. 19 that are alleged

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ASSEMBLY BILL 463**SECTION 20**

1 ~~to be committed by a resident of his or her prosecutorial unit, or if alleged to be~~
2 ~~committed by a nonresident of this state, that are alleged to occur within his or her~~
3 ~~prosecutorial unit unless another prosecutor is substituted under s. 5.05 (2m) (h) or~~
4 ~~this chapter or by referral of the government accountability board under s. 5.05 (2m)~~
5 ~~(c) 15. or 16. For purposes of this subsection, a person other than a natural person~~
6 ~~is a resident of a prosecutorial unit if the person's principal place of operation is~~
7 ~~located in that prosecutorial unit.~~

8

(END)

**2017-2018 DRAFTING INSERT
FROM THE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

LRB-0852/lins
TKK:...

INSERT ANALYSIS

Under current law, with limited exceptions, civil violations of elections laws and of laws related to the official functions of the subject of an investigation or any matter that relates to elections that are alleged to be committed by a resident of this state are prosecuted by the Elections Commission or by the district attorney for the prosecutorial unit (in most cases, the county) where the subject resides. Also under current law, with similar exceptions, civil violations of campaign finance, ethics, and lobbying regulation laws and of laws related to the official functions of the subject of an investigation or any matter that relates to campaign finance, ethics, or lobbying that are alleged to be committed by a resident of this state are prosecuted by the Ethics Commission or by the district attorney for the prosecutorial unit where the subject resides. With similar exceptions, civil violations of these laws by nonresidents are prosecuted by the respective commission or by the district attorney for the prosecutorial unit where an alleged violation occurs. Criminal violations of these laws are prosecuted solely by the same district attorney, subject to the same exceptions. With certain limited exceptions, the trial in any such civil or criminal prosecution of a resident of this state, as well as in any lobbying license revocation action brought by the Ethics Commission, is held in circuit court for the county where the subject resides. With similar exceptions, the trial in any such civil or criminal prosecution of a nonresident of this state is held in circuit court for the county where an alleged violation occurs.

This bill provides, with similar exceptions, that all such civil violations of elections laws shall be prosecuted by the Elections Commission or by the district attorney for the prosecutorial unit where an alleged violation occurs, irrespective of the residence of the defendant. The bill also provides, with similar exceptions, that all such civil violations of campaign finance, ethics, and lobbying laws shall be prosecuted by the Ethics Commission or by the district attorney for the prosecutorial unit where an alleged violation occurs, irrespective of the residence of the defendant. The bill also provides, with similar exceptions, that all such criminal violations shall be prosecuted solely by the district attorney for the prosecutorial unit where an alleged violation occurs, irrespective of the residence of the defendant. In addition, the bill provides, with limited exceptions, that the trial in any such civil or criminal prosecution, as well as in any lobbying license revocation action brought by the Ethics Commission, shall be held in circuit court for the county where the alleged violation occurs. Under the bill, the Election Commission has no responsibility for prosecution of any violations other than violations of elections laws, and the Ethics Commission has no responsibility for prosecution of any violations other than violations of campaign finance, ethics, and lobbying regulation laws.

INSERT 2-1

1 **SECTION 1.** 5.05 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 5.05 (1) (c) Bring civil actions to require a forfeiture for any violation of chs. 5
3 to 10 or 12. The commission may compromise and settle any civil action or potential
4 action brought or authorized to be brought by it which, in the opinion of the
5 commission, constitutes a minor violation, a violation caused by excusable neglect,
6 or which for other good cause shown, should not in the public interest be prosecuted
7 under such chapter. Notwithstanding s. 778.06, a civil action or proposed civil action
8 authorized under this paragraph may be settled for such sum as may be agreed
9 between the parties. Any settlement made by the commission shall be in such
10 amount as to deprive the alleged violator of any benefit of his or her wrongdoing and
11 may contain a penal component to serve as a deterrent to future violations. In
12 settling civil actions or proposed civil actions, the commission shall treat comparable
13 situations in a comparable manner and shall assure that any settlement bears a
14 reasonable relationship to the severity of the offense or alleged offense. ~~Except as~~
15 ~~otherwise provided in sub. (2m) (e) 15. and 16. and ss. 5.08 and 5.081, forfeiture~~
16 Forfeiture actions brought by the commission shall be brought in the circuit court for
17 the county where the defendant resides, or if the defendant is a nonresident of this
18 state, in circuit court for the county wherein the violation is alleged to occur. For
19 purposes of this paragraph, a person other than an individual resides within a county
20 if the person's principal place of operation is located within that county. Whenever
21 the commission enters into a settlement agreement with an individual who is
22 accused of a civil violation of chs. 5 to 10 or 12 or who is investigated by the

1 commission for a possible civil violation of one of those provisions, the commission
 2 shall reduce the agreement to writing, together with a statement of the commission's
 3 findings and reasons for entering into the agreement and shall retain the agreement
 4 and statement in its office for inspection.

History: 1973 c. 334; 1975 c. 85, 93, 199; 1977 c. 29; 1977 c. 196 s. 131; 1977 c. 418, 427, 447; 1979 c. 32 s. 92 (8); 1979 c. 89, 154, 328; 1983 a. 27, 484, 524, 538; 1985 a. 303; 1985 a. 304 ss. 3, 155; 1989 a. 31, 192; 1999 a. 182; 2001 a. 109; 2003 a. 35, 265, 266, 327; 2005 a. 177; 2007 a. 1 ss. 2 to 19, 94, 99, 100, 103, 104, 107, 109, 111, 112, 114, 116, 127, 128; 2007 a. 20; 2009 a. 28, 180; 2011 a. 75; 2013 a. 20, 166; 2015 a. 2, 117; 2015 a. 118 ss. 3 to 54, 266 (10); 2015 a. 261; s. 13.92 (1) (e); s. 35.17 correction in (1) (intro.).

5 **SECTION 2. 5.05 (2m) (a)** of the statutes is amended to read:

6 **5.05 (2m) (a)** The commission shall investigate violations of laws administered
 7 by the commission and may prosecute alleged civil violations of those laws, directly
 8 or through its agents under this subsection, pursuant to all statutes granting or
 9 assigning that authority or responsibility to the commission. ~~Prosecution of alleged~~
 10 ~~criminal violations investigated by the commission~~ [✓] ~~may be brought only as provided~~
 11 ~~in par. (c) 11., 14., 15., and 16. and s. 978.05 (1).~~ For purposes of this subsection, the
 12 commission may only initiate an investigation of an alleged violation of chs. 5 to 10
 13 and 12, other than an offense described under par. (c) 12., based on a sworn complaint
 14 filed with the commission, as provided under par. (c). Neither the commission nor
 15 any member or employee of the commission, [✓] including the commission
 16 administrator, may file a sworn complaint for purposes of this subsection.

History: 1973 c. 334; 1975 c. 85, 93, 199; 1977 c. 29; 1977 c. 196 s. 131; 1977 c. 418, 427, 447; 1979 c. 32 s. 92 (8); 1979 c. 89, 154, 328; 1983 a. 27, 484, 524, 538; 1985 a. 303; 1985 a. 304 ss. 3, 155; 1989 a. 31, 192; 1999 a. 182; 2001 a. 109; 2003 a. 35, 265, 266, 327; 2005 a. 177; 2007 a. 1 ss. 2 to 19, 94, 99, 100, 103, 104, 107, 109, 111, 112, 114, 116, 127, 128; 2007 a. 20; 2009 a. 28, 180; 2011 a. 75; 2013 a. 20, 166; 2015 a. 2, 117; 2015 a. 118 ss. 3 to 54, 266 (10); 2015 a. 261; s. 13.92 (1) (e); s. 35.17 correction in (1) (intro.).

17 **SECTION 3. 5.05 (2m) (c) 4.** of the statutes is amended to read:

18 **5.05 (2m) (c) 4.** If the commission [✓] reviews a complaint and fails to find that
 19 there is a reasonable suspicion that a violation under subd. 2. has occurred or is
 20 occurring, the commission shall dismiss the complaint. If the commission believes
 21 that there is reasonable suspicion that a violation under subd. 2. has occurred or is
 22 occurring, the commission may by resolution authorize the commencement of an

1 investigation. The resolution shall specifically set forth any matter that is
2 authorized to be investigated. To assist in the investigation, the commission may
3 elect to retain a special investigator. If the commission elects to retain a special
4 investigator, the administrator of the commission shall submit to the commission the
5 names of 3 qualified individuals to serve as a special investigator. The commission
6 may retain one or more of the individuals. If [✓]Unless another prosecutor has
7 jurisdiction to prosecute the alleged violation, if the commission retains a special
8 investigator to investigate a complaint ~~against a person who is a resident of this state~~
9 alleging a violation under subd. 2.,[✓] the commission shall provide to the district
10 attorney for the county ~~in which the person resides where the violation is alleged to~~
11 occur a copy of the complaint and shall notify the district attorney that it has retained
12 a special investigator to investigate the complaint. [✓]~~For purposes of this subdivision,~~
13 ~~a person other than an individual resides within a county if the person's principal~~
14 ~~place of operation is located within that county.~~ [✓]If another prosecutor has
15 jurisdiction to prosecute the alleged violation, the commission[✓] shall provide the copy
16 of the complaint and notification to that prosecutor or the person having authority
17 to appoint that prosecutor. ^{complain} The commission shall enter into a written contract with
18 any individual who is retained as a special investigator setting forth the terms of the
19 engagement. A special investigator who is retained by the commission may request
20 the commission to issue a subpoena to a specific person or to authorize the special
21 investigator to request the circuit court of the county in which the specific person
22 resides to issue a search warrant. The commission may grant the request by

1 approving a motion to that effect at a meeting of the commission if the commission
2 finds that such action is legally appropriate.

History: 1973 c. 334; 1975 c. 85, 93, 199; 1977 c. 29; 1977 c. 196 s. 131; 1977 c. 418, 427, 447; 1979 c. 32 s. 92 (8); 1979 c. 89, 154, 328; 1983 a. 27, 484, 524, 538; 1985 a. 303; 1985 a. 304 ss. 3, 155; 1989 a. 31, 192; 1999 a. 182; 2001 a. 109; 2003 a. 35, 265, 266, 327; 2005 a. 177; 2007 a. 1 ss. 2 to 19, 94, 99, 100, 103, 104, 107, 109, 111, 112, 114, 116, 127, 128; 2007 a. 20; 2009 a. 28, 180; 2011 a. 75; 2013 a. 20, 166; 2015 a. 2, 117; 2015 a. 118 ss. 3 to 54, 266 (10); 2015 a. 261; s. 13.92 (1) (e); s. 35.17 correction in (1) (intro).

INSERT 5-13

3 **SECTION 4.** 5.05 (2m) (c) 14. of the statutes is amended to read:

4 5.05 (2m) (c) 14. If a special investigator or the commission administrator, in
5 the course of an investigation authorized by the commission, discovers evidence of
6 a potential violation of a law that is not administered by the commission arising from
7 or in relation to the official functions of the subject of the investigation or any matter
8 that involves elections, the special investigator or the administrator may present
9 that evidence to the commission. The commission may thereupon refer the matter
10 to the appropriate district attorney specified, except as otherwise provided in subd.
11 11., or may refer the matter to the attorney general. The attorney general may then
12 commence a civil or criminal prosecution relating to the matter.

History: 1973 c. 334; 1975 c. 85, 93, 199; 1977 c. 29; 1977 c. 196 s. 131; 1977 c. 418, 427, 447; 1979 c. 32 s. 92 (8); 1979 c. 89, 154, 328; 1983 a. 27, 484, 524, 538; 1985 a. 303; 1985 a. 304 ss. 3, 155; 1989 a. 31, 192; 1999 a. 182; 2001 a. 109; 2003 a. 35, 265, 266, 327; 2005 a. 177; 2007 a. 1 ss. 2 to 19, 94, 99, 100, 103, 104, 107, 109, 111, 112, 114, 116, 127, 128; 2007 a. 20; 2009 a. 28, 180; 2011 a. 75; 2013 a. 20, 166; 2015 a. 2, 117; 2015 a. 118 ss. 3 to 54, 266 (10); 2015 a. 261; s. 13.92 (1) (e); s. 35.17 correction in (1) (intro).

13 **SECTION 5.** 5.05 (2m) (i) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 5.05 (2m) (i) If ~~the defendant in an action for a~~ an alleged criminal violation
15 of chs. 5 to 10 or 12 is concerns a district attorney or a circuit judge or a candidate
16 for either such office, the action shall be brought by the attorney general. If the
17 ~~defendant in an action for a~~ an alleged criminal violation of chs. 5 to 10 or 12 is
18 concerns the attorney general or a candidate for that office, the commission may
19 appoint a special prosecutor to conduct the prosecution on behalf of the state.

History: 1973 c. 334; 1975 c. 85, 93, 199; 1977 c. 29; 1977 c. 196 s. 131; 1977 c. 418, 427, 447; 1979 c. 32 s. 92 (8); 1979 c. 89, 154, 328; 1983 a. 27, 484, 524, 538; 1985 a. 303; 1985 a. 304 ss. 3, 155; 1989 a. 31, 192; 1999 a. 182; 2001 a. 109; 2003 a. 35, 265, 266, 327; 2005 a. 177; 2007 a. 1 ss. 2 to 19, 94, 99, 100, 103, 104, 107, 109, 111, 112, 114, 116, 127, 128; 2007 a. 20; 2009 a. 28, 180; 2011 a. 75; 2013 a. 20, 166; 2015 a. 2, 117; 2015 a. 118 ss. 3 to 54, 266 (10); 2015 a. 261; s. 13.92 (1) (e); s. 35.17 correction in (1) (intro).

20 **SECTION 6.** 5.08 of the statutes is amended to read:

1 **5.08 Petition for enforcement.** In addition to or in lieu of filing a complaint,
 2 any elector may file a verified petition alleging such facts as are within his or her
 3 knowledge to indicate that an election official has failed or is failing to comply with
 4 any law regulating the conduct of elections or election campaigns, other than a law
 5 regulating campaign financing, or proposes to act in a manner inconsistent with such
 6 a law, and requesting that an action be commenced for injunctive relief, a writ of
 7 mandamus or prohibition or other such legal or equitable relief as may be
 8 appropriate to compel compliance with the law. The Unless another prosecutor has
 9 jurisdiction to prosecute the alleged failure to comply, the petition shall be filed with
 10 the district attorney for the county having jurisdiction to prosecute the alleged
 11 failure to comply under s. 978.05 (1) and (2) if another prosecutor has jurisdiction to
 12 prosecute the alleged failure to comply, the petition shall be filed with that prosecutor
 13 or the person having authority to appoint that prosecutor. The district attorney or
 14 other prosecutor may then commence the action or dismiss the petition. If the
 15 district attorney or other prosecutor declines to act upon the petition or if the district
 16 attorney fails to act upon the petition within 15 days of the date of filing, the
 17 petitioner may file the same petition with the attorney general, who may then
 18 commence the action.

History: 1983 a. 484; 2007 a. 1; 2015 a. 118.

INSERT 7-10

19 **SECTION 7.** 11.1400 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 11.1400 (5) Except as otherwise provided in ss. 19.49 (2) (b) 13. and 14. and (g)
 21 and 19.554, actions under this section may be brought by the commission or, upon
 22 the commission's determination of probable cause, by the district attorney for the
 23 county where the defendant resides or, if the defendant is a nonresident, by the
 24 district attorney for the county where the violation is alleged to have occurred. For

1 purposes of this subsection, a person other than an individual resides within a county
 2 if the person's principal place of operation is located within that county violation is
 3 alleged to have occurred. ✓ If a violation concerns a district attorney or circuit judge
 4 or candidate for either such office, the action shall be brought by the attorney
 5 general. If a violation concerns the attorney general or a candidate for such office,
 6 the ~~board~~ ^{e commission} may appoint special counsel to bring suit on behalf of the state. ✓

History: 2015 a. 117 ss. 24, 24g, 74 (1m).

7 **SECTION 8.** 11.1401 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 11.1401 (2) Except as otherwise provided in ~~ss.~~ ^{s.} 19.49 (2) (b) 13. and 14. and (h)
 9 and 19.554, and only after the commission has determined probable cause, all
 10 prosecutions under this section shall be conducted by the district attorney for the
 11 county where the defendant resides or, if the defendant is a nonresident, by the
 12 district attorney for the county where the violation is alleged to have occurred. For
 13 purposes of this subsection, a person other than a individual resides within a county
 14 if the person's principal place of operation is located within that county violation is
 15 alleged to have occurred. ✓ In addition to the remedy provided in s. 19.49 (2) (b) 13.
 16 to 15., if the district attorney refuses to act upon a sworn complaint, or fails to act
 17 upon such a complaint within 60 days of the date on which the complaint is received,
 18 the attorney general may then conduct the prosecution under this section. ✓ If a
 19 violation concerns a district attorney or circuit judge or candidate for either such
 20 office, the prosecution shall be conducted by the attorney general. ✓ If a violation
 21 concerns the attorney general or a candidate for such office, the ~~board~~ ^{e commission} may appoint
 22 a special prosecutor to conduct the prosecution on behalf of the state.

History: 2015 a. 117 ss. 24, 24h, 74 (1m).

23 **SECTION 9.** 12.13 (5) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

1 12.13 (5) (a) Except as specifically authorized by law and except as provided
 2 in par. (b), no investigator, prosecutor, employee of an investigator or prosecutor, or
 3 member or employee of the commission[✓] may disclose information related to an
 4 investigation or prosecution under chs. 5 to 10 or 12,[✓] ~~or any other law specified in s.~~
 5 ~~978.05 (1) or (2)~~ or provide access to any record of the investigator, prosecutor, or the
 6 commission that is not subject to access under s. 5.05 (5s) to any person other than
 7 an employee or agent of the prosecutor or investigator or a member, employee, or
 8 agent of the commission prior to presenting the information or record in a court of
 9 law.

History: 1973 c. 334; 1975 c. 85, 93, 199; 1977 c. 427, 447; 1979 c. 89, 249, 260, 311, 357; 1983 a. 183 s. 45; 1983 a. 192 s. 304; 1983 a. 484 ss. 135, 172 (3), 174; 1983 a. 491; 1985 a. 304; 1987 a. 391; 1989 a. 192; 1991 a. 316; 1999 a. 49; 2001 a. 16; 2003 a. 265; 2005 a. 451; 2007 a. 1; 2011 a. 23; 2013 a. 159; 2015 a. 117; 2015 a. 118 ss. 130, 266 (10).

10 **SECTION 10.** 19.554[✗] of the statutes is amended to read:

11 **19.554 Petition for enforcement.** In addition to or in lieu of filing a
 12 complaint, any elector may file a verified petition alleging such facts as are within
 13 his or her knowledge to indicate that an election official has failed or is failing to
 14 comply with any law regulating campaign financing or proposes to act in a manner
 15 inconsistent with such a law, and requesting that an action be commenced for
 16 injunctive relief, a writ of mandamus or prohibition or other such legal or equitable
 17 relief as may be appropriate to compel compliance with the law. The Unless another
 18 prosecutor has jurisdiction to prosecute the alleged failure to comply,[✓] the petition
 19 shall be filed with the district attorney for the county having jurisdiction to prosecute
 20 the alleged failure to comply under s. 978.05 (1) and (2).[✓] If another prosecutor has
 21 jurisdiction to prosecute the alleged failure to comply, the petition shall be filed with
 22 that prosecutor or the person having authority to appoint that prosecutor.[✓] The
 23 district attorney may then commence the action or dismiss the petition. If the district
 24 attorney declines to act upon the petition or if the district attorney fails to act upon

1 the petition within 15 days of the date of filing, the petitioner may file the same
2 petition with the attorney general, who may then commence the action.

History: 2015 a. 118.

INSERT 10-1

3 **SECTION 11.** 978.05 (1)^x of the statutes is amended to read:

4 978.05 (1) CRIMINAL ACTIONS. Except as otherwise provided by law, prosecute
5 all criminal actions before any court within his or her prosecutorial unit[✓] and have
6 sole responsibility for prosecution of all criminal actions arising from violations of
7 chs. 5 to 12, subch. III of ch. 13, or subch. III of ch. 19 and from violations of other
8 laws arising from or in relation to the official functions of the subject of the
9 investigation or any matter that involves elections, ethics, or lobbying regulation
10 under chs. 5 to 12, subch. III of ch. 13, or subch. III of ch. 19, that are alleged to be
11 committed by a resident of his or her prosecutorial unit, or if alleged to be committed
12 by a nonresident of this state, that are alleged to occur in his or her prosecutorial unit
13 unless another prosecutor is substituted under s. 5.05 (2m) (i) or 19.49 (2) (h) or this
14 chapter or by referral of the elections commission under s. 5.05 (2m) (c) 15. or 16. or
15 the ethics commission under s. 19.49 (2) (b) 13. or 14. For purposes of this subsection,
16 a person other than an individual is a resident of a prosecutorial unit if the person's
17 principal place of operation is located in that prosecutorial unit.[✓]

History: 1989 a. 31, 117, 336; 1991 a. 16, 32, 39; 1993 a. 98; 1995 a. 27 ss. 7291, 7292, 9116 (5), 9130 (4); 1995 a. 77, 201, 448; Sup. Ct. Order No. 96-08, 207 Wis. 2d
xv (1997); 1997 a. 3, 35, 73; 1999 a. 9; 2001 a. 16; 2005 a. 25, 434; 2007 a. 1; 2007 a. 20 ss. 3927, 9121 (6) (a); 2011 a. 32; 2015 a. 55, 118; s. 35.17 correction in (6) (a).

18 **SECTION 12.** 978.05 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 978.05 (2) FORFEITURES. Except as otherwise provided by law, prosecute all
20 state forfeiture actions, county traffic actions, and actions concerning violations of
21 county ordinances which are in conformity with state criminal laws in the courts
22 within his or her prosecutorial unit and have joint responsibility, together with the
23 elections commission[✓] and the ethics commission[✓], for prosecution of all forfeiture

1 actions arising from violations of chs. 5 to 12, subch. III of ch. 13, or subch. III of ch.
2 19 and from violations of other laws arising from or in relation to the official functions
3 of the subject of the investigation or any matter that involves elections, ethics, or
4 lobbying regulation under chs. 5 to 12, subch. III of ch. 13, or subch. III of ch. 19 that
5 are alleged to be committed by a resident of his or her prosecutorial unit, or if alleged
6 to be committed by a nonresident of this state,[✓] that are alleged to occur within his
7 or her prosecutorial unit unless another prosecutor is substituted under s. 5.05 (2m)
8 (h) or 19.49 (2) (g) or this chapter or by referral of the elections commission under s.
9 5.05 (2m) (c) 15. or 16. or the ethics commission under s. 19.49 (2) (b) 13. or 14. For
10 purposes of this subsection, a person other than an individual is a resident of a
11 prosecutorial unit if the person's principal place of operation is located in that
12 prosecutorial unit.[✓]

History: 1989 a. 31, 117, 336; 1991 a. 16, 32, 39; 1993 a. 98; 1995 a. 27 ss. 7291, 7292, 9116 (5), 9130 (4); 1995 a. 77, 201, 448; Sup. Ct. Order No. 96-08, 207 Wis. 2d xv (1997); 1997 a. 3, 35, 73; 1999 a. 9; 2001 a. 16; 2005 a. 25, 434; 2007 a. 1; 2007 a. 20 ss. 3927, 9121 (6) (a); 2011 a. 32; 2015 a. 55, 118; s. 35.17 correction in (6) (a).

Kohn, Hanna

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