AN ACT to create 19.45 (8m) of the statutes; relating to: employment by a former member of the legislature as a lobbyist.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill prohibits any individual who serves as a member of the legislature, for 12 months following the date on which the individual ceases to hold office, from being employed as a lobbyist. “Lobbyist” is defined as an individual who is compensated by a principal and whose duties include attempting to influence state legislative action or state administrative rule-making action on behalf of the principal; if an individual’s duties on behalf of a principal are not limited exclusively to lobbying, the individual is a lobbyist only if he or she makes lobbying communications on each of at least five days during a six-month reporting period.

Violators of the prohibition are subject to a forfeiture (civil penalty) of not more than $5,000 for each violation. Intentional violators are guilty of a misdemeanor and are subject to a fine of not less than $100 nor more than $5,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year or both for each violation.

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

SECTION 1. 19.45 (8m) of the statutes is created to read:
19.45 (8m) No individual who serves as a member of the legislature, for 12 months following the date on which the individual ceases to hold office, may be employed as a lobbyist, as defined in s. 13.62 (11).

(END)