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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

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**2021 Assembly Bill 173**

**Assembly Amendment 2**

### 2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 173

Assembly Bill 173 limits the acceptance and use of private grants for election administration and disqualifies certain individuals from serving as election officials. The bill generally prohibits counties and municipalities from applying for or accepting any donation or grant of private resources for purposes of election administration. The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) may accept a donation or grant of moneys from an individual or nongovernmental entity for purposes of election administration, subject to limitations on its use. WEC may not expend moneys it receives unless: (1) WEC distributes the moneys to each municipality in the state on a per capita basis (with an exception for amounts less than \$25); and (2) WEC expends the donation or grant of moneys only as approved by the Joint Committee on Finance.

### ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2

Assembly Amendment 2 amends the bill to additionally prohibit a local unit of government from entering into a contract related to election administration if the contract contains any requirement governing election administration, requires the repayment or return of any private resources used for elections, or transfers any duty or power not authorized under state law. The amendment prohibits WEC from accepting a private grant if acceptance of the grant requires the WEC to use the resources for specific purposes or to repay or return any private resources. The amendment specifies that when WEC distributes funds to municipalities on a per capita basis, the funds must be distributed to offset the municipality's expenses related to the administration of elections.

### BILL HISTORY

Assembly Amendment 2 was offered by Representative Neylon on April 14, 2021. On April 27, 2021, the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections recommended adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 3.

PJH:ksm