
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2025 Senate Bill 126

Assembly Amendment 1

BACKGROUND

2023 Wisconsin Act 126 addressed two topics: (1) campaign finance filings; and (2) protections for election officials. Currently, candidates for state office and committees that support or oppose those candidates register and file campaign finance reports with the Wisconsin Ethics Commission, while candidates for local office and committees that support or oppose local candidates and referendums register and file reports with local clerks. Effective as of July 1, 2025, Act 126 requires all state and local candidates and committees to register and file campaign finance reports with the Ethics Commission.

Act 126 also created protections for election officials and election registration officials (hereinafter, “election officials”) that ensure privacy of their personal information, prevent negative employment actions for reporting election fraud, and create a special battery crime for actions against them. As part of these protections, the act shields personally identifiable information of elections officials from disclosure under the Public Records Law. A governmental authority that possesses an election official’s information may only provide access to the official’s name, city, and state, and cannot provide access to other personally identifiable information. Like the campaign finance provisions, these election official protections take effect on July 1, 2025.

2025 SENATE BILL 126

2025 Senate Bill 126 is a trailer bill that delays the effective date of the Act 126 provisions that transfer responsibility for receiving candidate and committee registrations and campaign finance reports from local clerks to the Wisconsin Ethics Commission. The bill delays the effective date from July 1, 2025 until December 1, 2027.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 makes a change to the Act 126 provision shielding the personally identifiable information of election officials. Amendment 1 extends protection to the information of a former election official (other than name, city, and state), in addition to shielding information of a current election official. The amendment also provides that personally identifiable information is exempt from disclosure only if the election official submits a written request to the governmental authority requesting that the information be kept confidential. These changes take effect on July 1, 2025, or on the day after publication of the enacted law, whichever is later.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Krug offered Assembly Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 126 on May 8, 2025. On May 13, 2025, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 1 and concurred in Senate Bill 126, as amended. Two days later, on May 15, 2025, the Senate concurred in Assembly Amendment 1.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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