

No. 419, A.]

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CHAPTER 135

AN ACT to amend 346.12, 346.13 and 346.14 of the statutes, relating to political contributions by labor unions and providing penalties.

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

346.12, 346.13 and 346.14 of the statutes are amended to read:

346.12 (1) No foreign or domestic corporation, * * * no association organized under ch. 185 doing business in this state *and no labor*

*union or labor organization, shall * * * contribute * * * any money or thing of value, directly or indirectly, * * * to any political party, political organization, political committee or individual candidate for any political purpose whatsoever, * * * or to promote or defeat the candidacy of any person for nomination * * * or election to any political office. No political party, political organization, political committee or individual candidate shall accept or receive any contribution prohibited by this section.*

(2) Nothing contained in this section shall affect the right of any individual to form, join, contribute to or participate in voluntary organizations provided for in s. 12.09, other than labor organizations or labor unions, to support political candidates and purposes of his own choosing, nor his right to subscribe to a regularly published organization newspaper. Nothing contained in this section shall prohibit the publication by corporations, labor unions and labor organizations and co-operatives in the regular course of conducting their affairs, of periodicals advising their members, stockholders or customers of dangers or advantages to their interests of election to office of men espousing certain measures.

(3) As used in this section and ss. 346.13 and 346.14 the terms "labor union" or "labor organization" mean any organization of any kind, whether it be a local lodge, or a district, county, state, national or international federation, or any agency or employe representation committee or plan in which employes participate and which exists for the purposes in whole or in part of dealing with employers concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay, hours of employment or conditions of work.

346.13 Any officer, employe, agent or attorney or other representative of any corporation, *labor union or labor organization*, acting for and in behalf of such corporation, *labor union or labor organization*, who shall violate ss. 346.12 to 346.16, shall be * * * *fin*ed not less than \$100 nor more than \$5,000, or * * * *imprisoned* not less than one nor more than 5 years, or * * * *both* * * * in the discretion of the court or judge before whom such conviction is had and if the corporation, *labor union or labor organization* shall be subject to a penalty then by forfeiture in double the amount of any fine so imposed to be collected as other actions by forfeiture are collected and if a domestic corporation, it may be dissolved, if after a proper proceeding upon quo warranto, in either the circuit or supreme court of the state to be prosecuted by the attorney general of the state, the court shall find and give judgment that s. 346.12 has been violated as charged, and if a foreign or nonresident corporation, its right to do business in this state may be declared forfeited.

346.14 The violation of ss. 346.12 to 346.16, by any officer, employe, agent, attorney or other representative of a corporation, *labor union or labor organization*, shall be prima facie evidence of said violation by such corporation, *labor union or labor organization*. All fines or forfeitures recovered under any of the provisions of ss. 346.12 to 346.16, shall, when collected, be paid into the proper treasury of the county for the use of the school fund, and it is hereby made the duty of the district attorney of each county to conduct prosecutions under ss. 346.12 to 346.16, upon complaint as in other actions.

Approved May 20, 1955.