
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



Memo published: April 13, 2021

Contact: Katie Bender-Olson, Senior Staff Attorney

2021 Senate Bill 207

Senate Amendment 2

2021 SENATE BILL 207

Senate Bill 207 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.

SENATE AMENDMENT 2

Senate Amendment 2 generally prohibits WEC or a local government from applying for or accepting private donations and grants. Specifically, the amendment prohibits a “state agency,” as defined, county, or municipality from applying for or accepting any donation or grant of private resources for purposes of election administration. The amendment also deletes the conditions on how WEC may expend moneys it receives, since WEC cannot accept private donations or grants under the amendment.

Senate Amendment 2 also prohibits state agencies, counties, and municipalities from entering into a contract related to election administration that includes certain provisions. Specifically, the amendment prohibits entering into an election administration-related contract that includes: (1) any requirement governing election administration; or (2) transfer of any duty or power related to election administration to a person not having that duty or power under the laws of this state.

BILL HISTORY

Senate Amendment 2 was introduced by the Senate Committee on Elections, Election Process Reform, and Ethics on April 13, 2021, on a vote of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2. The committee then recommended adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2.

KBO:ksm