

No. 508, A.]

[Published September 12, 1959.

CHAPTER 429

AN ACT to repeal 12.56 (1) (c); and to amend 12.56 (1) (a) and (b), (2) and (3) of the statutes, relating to political contributions by corporations and labor organizations.

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

SECTION 1. 12.56 (1) (a) and (b) of the statutes are amended to read:

12.56 POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY CORPORATIONS PROHIBITED. (1) (a) No foreign or domestic corporation * * * and no association organized under ch. 185 doing business in this state * * * 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.

(b) 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, * * * 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 * * * 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.

SECTION 2. 12.56 (1) (c) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 3. 12.56 (2) and (3) of the statutes are amended to read:

12.56 (2) Any officer, employe, agent or attorney or other representative of any corporation * * * acting for and in behalf of such corporation, * * * who * * * *violates* this section, shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$5,000, or imprisoned not less than one nor more than 5 years, or both * * *, and if the corporation * * * *is* 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 sub. (1) has been violated as charged, and if a foreign or nonresident corporation, its right to do business in this state may be declared forfeited.

(3) The violation of this section, by any officer, employe, agent, attorney or other representative of a corporation, * * * shall be prima facie evidence of said violation by such corporation * * *. All fines or forfeitures recovered under any of the provisions of this section 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 this section, upon complaint as in other actions.

Approved September 8, 1959.
