



2023 SENATE BILL 563

October 23, 2023 - Introduced by Senators LARSON, SPREITZER, TAYLOR, ROYS, L. JOHNSON and HESSELBEIN, cosponsored by Representatives RATCLIFF, SINICKI, ORTIZ-VELEZ, CONLEY, J. ANDERSON, EMERSON, SNODGRASS, SUBECK, BALDEH, BARE, SHELTON, CABRERA, CONSIDINE, PALMERI, STUBBS, C. ANDERSON, JOERS and SHANKLAND. Referred to Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber* 11.1208 (4); and *to create* 11.1208 (4) (b) of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** expressly prohibiting a foreign national from making a
3 contribution to a referendum committee.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law provides that no person may make or accept a contribution, make a disbursement, make an expenditure, or incur an obligation in violation of the federal law that prohibits a foreign national from making a contribution in connection with any federal, state, or local election. This bill provides, in addition, that no foreign national may make a contribution to a referendum committee and no referendum committee may accept a contribution from a foreign national. A recent decision by the Federal Elections Commission allowed a foreign national to make a contribution to a ballot initiative committee because the FEC determined that a ballot initiative is not an “election” for purposes of the federal law prohibiting contributions from foreign nationals.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** 11.1208 (4) of the statutes is renumbered 11.1208 (4) (a).
5 **SECTION 2.** 11.1208 (4) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

