

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

1999-00

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on
Campaigns &
Elections
(AC-CE)

File Naming Example:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

Published Documents

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH (Public Hearing Announcements)

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

*Information Collected For Or
Against Proposal*

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

**

➤ Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

➤ **99hr_ab0156_AC-CE_pt01**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **

Vote Record

Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections

Date: 3/12/99
 Moved by: Ladwig Seconded by: Montgomery
 AB: 156 Clearinghouse Rule: _____
 AB: _____ SB: _____ Appointment: _____
 AJR: _____ SJR: _____ Other: _____
 A: _____ SR: _____

A/S Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____
 A/S Sub Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____

Be recommended for:

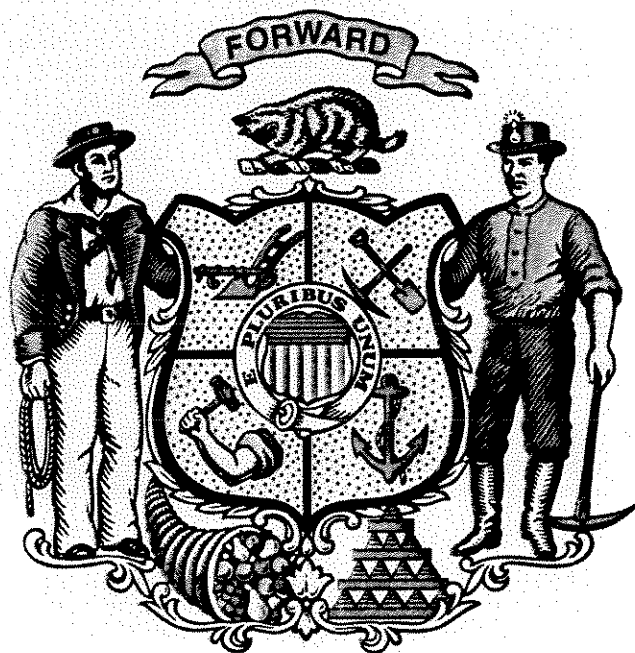
- Passage
- Introduction
- Adoption
- Rejection

- Indefinite Postponement
- Tabling
- Concurrence
- Nonconcurrence
- Confirmation

Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rep. Stephen Freese, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Scott Suder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rep. Scott Walker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rep. Phil Montgomery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rep. Bonnie Ladwig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rep. David Travis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. David Cullen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Mark Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rep. Gary Sherman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	9	_____	_____	_____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed





ANTHONY J. STASKUNAS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 15TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Testimony of Rep. Tony Staskunas, 1999 AB-156
Assembly Campaigns and Elections Committee
March 17, 1999**

Mr. Chairperson and Members of the Assembly Campaigns and Elections Committee:

I am Representative Tony Staskunas of the 15th Assembly District, the author of Assembly Bill 156.

I introduced this proposal because of potential conflicts between the US Constitution and state law. Constitutional concerns have been raised with the 1st and 14th Amendments as they pertain to current statutory language that require independent candidates for Governor to enter into an association to run for office. This statutorily required association restricts ballot access to candidates, which is contrary to Wisconsin's history of good government and representative democracy.

In 1970 Wisconsin State law was changed establishing a requirement that an independent candidate for Governor must secure a running mate in order to be placed on the ballot. This restriction is not imposed on candidates from the Democratic or Republican parties because running mates are decided by primary victories.

In 1978 a candidate filed to run for the seat of Governor as an independent while there was no independent candidate running for Lieutenant Governor. The members of the State Election Board at the time took the 1970 law very literally and denied the candidate the ability to run for Governor in the election because she had no running mate for the office of Lieutenant Governor.

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In 1994 another candidate filed to run for Governor as an independent with no running mate. The members of the State Election Board at that time had no opposition to his candidacy. However, 4 years later the same independent candidate again filed to run for Governor with no running mate. This time he was met with opposition from the State Election Board. The independent Gubernatorial Candidate hired an attorney and successfully fought to keep his name on the ballot without a running mate.

Assembly Bill 156 would clarify our state's election laws for independent candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and would eliminate the potential inconsistency of different Board members' interpretations.

Assembly Bill 156 would permit an independent candidate for the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor to file nomination papers without a running mate which is currently the practice for the major political party candidates. If an independent candidate for Governor were elected without a Lieutenant Governor running mate, current law does make provisions for the appointment of a Lieutenant Governor, if the seat is vacant.

This Bill corrects a Wisconsin State Statute enacted about 3 decades ago that may be unconstitutional under both the 1st and 14th Amendments of the United States Constitution. Wisconsin has a history of political progressiveness and independence that we should preserve for future generations.

Mr. Chairperson and committee members, I appreciate your kind attention today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

-- End --