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Details: December 2007 Special Session

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Campaign Finance Reform, Rural Issues, and Information Technology (SC-CFRRIT)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Campaign Finance Reform, Rural Issues and Information Technology

December 2007 Special Session Senate Bill 1

Relating to: campaign financing, designations for the Wisconsin election campaign fund by individuals filing state income tax returns, creating a nonrefundable individual income tax credit for contributions to the Public Integrity Endowment, candidate time on public broadcasting television stations and public access channels, staffing of the Government Accountability Board; providing exemptions from emergency rule procedures; granting rule-making authority; making appropriations; and providing penalties.

By Joint Committee on Legislative Organization, by request of Governor James E. Doyle.

January 22, 2008 Referred to Committee on Campaign Finance Reform, Rural Issues and Information Technology.

February 12, 2008 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (4) Senators Kreitlow, Erpenbach, Lassa and Kapanke.
Absent: (1) Senator Kanavas.

Appearances For

- Andrea Kaminski, Madison — League of Women Voters of WI
- Ed Garvey, Madison
- William R Benedict, Madison
- Steve Holtzman, Madison

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- Darrell E. Wilson, Reedsburg
- Marion Stuenkel, Madison
- Jim Doyle — Governor
- Adam Korbitz, Madison — State Bar of Wisconsin
- Curt Witynski, Madison — League of Wisconsin Municipalities
- Sabrina Gentile, Madison — WI Council on Children and Families
- Tom Frazier, Madison — Coalition of WI Aging Groups
- Carl Silverman, Madison

- Peter Cannon, Madison
- Nan Cheney, Madison
- Constance Threinen, Middleton
- Thomas Thoresen, Fitchburg

Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

February 28, 2008

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

Present: (4) Senators Kreitlow, Erpenbach, Lassa and Kapanke.
Absent: (1) Senator Kanavas.

Moved by Senator Erpenbach, seconded by Senator Lassa that **Senate Amendment** be recommended for introduction and adoption.

Ayes: (4) Senators Kreitlow, Erpenbach, Lassa and Kapanke.
Noes: (0) None.
Absent: (1) Senator Kanavas.

**INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT
RECOMMENDED, Ayes 4, Noes 0**

Moved by Senator Erpenbach, seconded by Senator Kreitlow that **December 2007 Special Session Senate Bill 1** be recommended for passage as amended.

Ayes: (3) Senators Kreitlow, Erpenbach and Lassa.
Noes: (1) Senator Kapanke.
Absent: (1) Senator Kanavas.

PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 3, Noes 1

Kathy Daggs
Committee Clerk

Vote Record

Committee on Campaign Finance Reform, Rural Issues and Information Technology

Date: 2/28/08

Moved by: EXP

Seconded by: LASSA

AB _____ SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt 1 (a1453) include SB-1211ang ^{Jan 1} Jan. 1

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 Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
- Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Senator Pat Kreitlow, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Jon Erpenbach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Julie Lassa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Ted Kanavas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Dan Kapanke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	_____	_____

Motion Carried Motion Failed

Vote Record

Committee on Campaign Finance Reform, Rural Issues and Information Technology

Date: 02/28/08

Bill Number: SSB1

Moved by: Erpenbach Seconded by: Kreitlow

Motion: Passage as amended.

Committee Member

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Pat Kreitlow, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Jon Erpenbach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Julie Lassa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Ted Kanavas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Dan Kapanke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Please give the Senator this posting and ask him to share it with the committee.

Campaign Finance Reform

Feb 11, 2008

Obviously the time and money spent to finance election is counter productive to our office holders and would be office holders.

Than too, this gives lobbyist's the opportunity to "buy" our officials.

We can have publicly financed campaigns, save the integrity of our elections and provide good informed elections for perhaps \$3.00 per tax payer.

The "volunteer" program is faulty. You our legislatures raise our tax, increase our sales tax, increase our fuel tax, we accept it as necessary. Certainly you can budget the cost of campaign finance reform from the general budget and appropriate the funds for it.

Here is a federal site re campaign finance reform. A number of states already do this and have had good results. There is no reason Wisconsin could not provide campaign funds for all offices in Wisconsin Government. Perhaps this could be accomplished for roughly \$3.00 per tax payer.

Please consider the information on this site: <http://www.just6dollars.org/>

There are many of us in Wisconsin who have followed this process and it is working. Please begin this matter and I am sure more feedback will come to your committee.

Thanks for all you do.

Bruce Eggum

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EDUCATION FUND

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<http://www.lwwwi.org>
lwwwisconsin@lwwwi.org

February 12, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Campaign Finance Reform, Rural issues and Information Technology

Re: Support for Senate Bill 12, Special Session Bill 1, and SB 25

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is pleased to offer our support for this proposal for comprehensive campaign finance reform. These bills make important and needed amendments to the statute, which has regulated campaign financing in Wisconsin for many years.

The intent of our current law, enacted in the 1970s, was that state funds assure that state candidates have adequate resources to reach the voters with their messages, that contributions and spending are limited and special interest influence is controlled and disclosed. Until the late 1980s, most candidates used these state funds in exchange for keeping spending under the limits, and the check-off provided enough money to fund full grants.

- By the 1990s several things had changed. The number of tax filers checking-off dropped significantly, full grants equaling 35% of the limits were not available, and candidates often faced high spending opponents. It has become too risky for candidates to apply for the ever-smaller grants while accepting the 1970s spending limits and possibly facing big-spending opponents.
- Our current system clearly no longer works. Public funds are not there but special interest funds are - and are used by both candidate committees and independent spenders.

This legislation goes a long way toward assuring adequately and equitably financed campaigns. We offer the following thoughts about some key provisions:

- The check-off should be raised to \$5 and GPR funds provided as needed. This guarantees that full grants will be available and that candidates will not be discouraged from applying for the funds.
- Candidate spending limits are increased to amounts adequate for viable campaigns. The League believes this will allow candidates to effectively reach voters with their messages.
- Grants are set at 45% of spending limits for partisan offices. While we believe a higher level would be preferable, further reducing the level of private funds, 45% will provide adequate funds for candidates to get their message out given the spending limit increases.
- Supplemental grants are provided for victims of independent spending and opponent spending beyond the limits as a means of discouraging such special interest spending by both candidates and independents.

(continued)

- There should be full disclosure of expenditures and the sources of funds by all groups that are involved in Wisconsin campaigning which is defined as express advocacy according to the US Supreme Court decision in 2007 and the related Federal Elections Commission regulations adopted in Nov. 2007.
- Most committee-to-committee transfers are eliminated as is special status for legislative campaign committees, both of which have become ways to conceal special interest influence, which unfairly increases incumbent and leadership control of the legislative process.

If enacted, Special Session Bill 1 will provide Wisconsin with a workable basic comprehensive campaign finance law and we urge its passage. The League, however, will continue - now and after passage - to support and work for certain stronger provisions.

- We would favor a higher percentage of public funding for all state campaigns. Whatever the level, we strongly believe that individual contribution limits should be lowered. Current limits give candidates with access to large contributors a significant advantage and continue to provide a channel for special interest influence.
- We would like to see the 6% primary vote requirement lowered as a way to increase public funding for independent and third party candidates, providing voters with a wider choice of viable candidates.

We thank you as always for the opportunity to express our opinion on this very important issue. We particularly thank the Governor and those members of the Legislature who have recognized the timeliness and necessity of achieving bipartisan comprehensive campaign finance reform in Wisconsin.

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Campaign Finance Reform, Rural Issues and Information Technology

From: Thomas J. Basting, Sr., President-Elect
State Bar of Wisconsin

Date: February 12, 2008

Re: State Bar of Wisconsin Support for Senate Bill 12 and Special Session Senate Bill 1 (Campaign Finance Reform)

The State Bar of Wisconsin reiterates its strong support for the provision of general purpose revenue to fund public financing of Supreme Court election campaigns.

The State Bar is chartered by the Wisconsin Supreme Court to, among other things, "provide a forum for the discussion of subjects pertaining to the practice of law, the science of jurisprudence and law reform and the relations of the bar to the public..." With this vital mission in mind, I am writing to convey the State Bar's strong support for the principles embodied in SB 12 and Special Session Senate Bill 1, as they pertain to public funding of Supreme Court campaigns.

We recognize the inherent benefit public campaign financing for Wisconsin judicial elections offers as a means to avoid even the perception that contributions to the election campaigns of judicial candidates could influence their decisions. This reflects the unique and critical role that the justice system plays in our system of government.

The State Bar's Board of Governors specifically addressed the issue of public financing for Supreme Court campaigns in 2006 and concluded that such a reform would "help maintain the integrity and independence of Wisconsin's courts, where even the perception of bias destroys public trust and confidence in the justice system."

These two bills offer members of this committee an opportunity to build public trust and confidence in Wisconsin's justice system. On behalf of the State Bar of Wisconsin, I strongly urge members to use this opportunity to affirm the fundamental principle that Wisconsin's highest court is and will remain fair, neutral, impartial and nonpartisan.