



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2005 Assembly Bill 1187**

**Assembly Amendments 1 to 3**

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Currently, with certain specified exemptions, registrants under the campaign finance law must file continuing campaign finance reports on a semi-annual basis. In addition, registrants may be subject to other filing requirements if they engage in financial activity with respect to an election.

Assembly Bill 1187 provides that each candidate for a partisan state office must file an additional continuing report in April and October of each *odd-numbered year* and in April of each *even-numbered year* unless exempted from the filing requirement under current law.

*Assembly Amendment 1* provides that the board may require any registrant required to file a continuing report that is due by April 20 or October 20, to file the report *electronically*.

*Assembly Amendment 2* provides that if any contribution of *\$500 or more* is received by a candidate for a partisan state office or his or her personal campaign committee from a single contributor and the contribution is not reported in a regular report, the candidate's campaign treasurer must, within *15 days of receipt*, inform the Elections Board of the information concerning the contribution in such a manner as the board may prescribe. The amendment also provides that this information must be included in the treasurer's next regular report.

*Assembly Amendment 3* deals with "issue advocacy" advertisements. Specifically, the amendment defines as an act for "political purposes" a communication that is made by means of one or more communications media, other than a communication that is exempt from reporting under s. 11.29, Stats., that is made during the period beginning on the 60<sup>th</sup> day preceding an election and ending on the date of that election and that includes a reference to a candidate who is certified to appear on the ballot at that election, a reference to an office to be filled at that election, or reference to a political party.

Defining acts in this manner will require any persons to report any contributions and disbursements that exceed current applicable dollar amounts in connection with issue advocacy.

It should be noted that the term “communication media” is defined in s. 11.01 (5) to mean newspapers, radio, and television stations, including community antenna television stations.

**Legislative History**

Assembly Bill 1187 was recommended for passage by the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections on April 27, 2006 on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 1.

***Assembly Amendment 1***, offered by Representative Freese, was adopted by the Assembly on May 2, 2006 on a vote of Ayes, 86; Noes, 9.

***Assembly Amendment 2***, offered by Representative Freese, was adopted by the Assembly on the same date, on a vote of Ayes, 96; Noes, 0.

***Assembly Amendment 3***, offered by Representative Krawczyk, was adopted on a vote of Ayes, 96; Noes, 0, on May 2, 2006.

The Assembly passed the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 95; Noes, 1, and ordered it messaged to the Senate on May 2, 2006.

RW:ksm