



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2005 Assembly Bill 66**

**Assembly Amendments 1 and 4**

*Memo published:* June 10, 2005

*Contact:* Robert J. Conlin, Senior Staff Attorney (266-2298)

### **CURRENT LAW**

Current campaign financing laws place various limits on political contributions made to candidates for public office. Current law includes limits on the amounts that may be contributed to candidates based upon the office to which the recipient seeks election and the type of entity making the contribution. In addition, current law generally requires recipients of campaign contributions to periodically report those contributions and to identify the contributors.

### **THE BILL**

2005 Assembly Bill 66 prohibits incumbent partisan elective officials, or campaign committees of such officials, from accepting any contribution for the purposes of promoting that official's nomination or reelection to the office held by that official during the period beginning on the first Monday of January in each odd-numbered year and ending on the date of enactment of the biennial budget act. The bill's prohibition, however, would not apply to such official if a recall petition has been filed against the official beginning on the date the recall petition is filed and ending on the date of the recall election or on the date on which the official resigns if the official resigns before the election.

An intentional violation of the prohibitions in the bill may subject the violator to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than six months, or both. In addition, violators may also be subject to a civil forfeiture of treble the amount or value of any unlawful contribution.

### **Assembly Amendment 1**

Assembly Amendment 1 would prohibit the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, or individuals elected to those offices, and their personal campaign or support committees, from accepting any campaign contribution for the office held by the individual during the time period beginning on the day

after the general election (November) and ending on the first Monday of the succeeding January. After that time, the restrictions contained in the bill would apply.

**Assembly Amendment 4**

Assembly Amendment 4 would amend the bill to additionally prohibit any candidate for state office from soliciting any contribution for the benefit of any committee during the time period covered by the bill (i.e., from the first Monday of January of each odd-numbered year until the date of enactment of the biennial budget act).

**Legislative History**

Assembly Amendments 1 and 4 were offered by the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections on May 26. On June 9, 2005, Assembly Amendment 1 was recommended for adoption on a vote of Ayes, 4; Noes, 2, and Assembly Amendment 4 was recommended for adoption on a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 0. The bill was reported without recommendation pursuant to Assembly Rule 19 (vote for passage was a tie).

RJC:wu