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2007 SENATE BILL 10

January 19, 2007 – Introduced by Joint Committee For Review of Administrative Rules. Referred to Committee on Campaign Finance Reform, Rural Issues and Information Technology.

AN ACT to create 11.41 of the statutes; relating to: reporting of certain information concerning individual contributions received on campaign finance reports.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, a registrant under the campaign finance law who is not exempted from reporting requirements must file regular reports with the appropriate filing officer or agency that include the name and address of each contributor whose cumulative contributions within a calendar year exceed \$20, the date and amount of each contribution made by such a contributor, and the cumulative total contributions made by the contributor within the calendar year. In addition, a registrant must report the occupation and principal place of employment, if any, of each contributor whose cumulative contributions for the calendar year exceed \$100. A registrant must keep a record of each contribution received by the registrant that exceeds \$10 and must make a good faith effort to obtain all information that is required to be reported.

This bill prohibits the Elections Board from promulgating any rule: 1) which provides that a registrant under the campaign finance law is considered to have complied in good faith with reporting requirements concerning identification of names and addresses of contributors, dates and cumulative amounts of contributions, and the occupation and principal place of employment of certain contributors if the registrant fails to provide the information required to be reported at the times that reports are required to be filed under the campaign finance law; or

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2) that requires divestiture of any contributions with respect to which required information is not reported at the times required under the campaign finance law. This bill is introduced as required by s. 227.19 (5) (e), stats., in support of the objection of the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules to the promulgation of proposed s. ElBd 1.46, Wis. Adm. Code, by the Elections Board. The proposed rule accorded registrants 60 days in which to report required information relating to a contribution received that is required to be reported by law or to divest the contribution. The proposed rule also provided that a registrant that does not report the required information within 60 days of the date that it is required to be reported and does not divest the contribution within that period is considered not to have complied with the requirement to make a good faith effort to obtain the required information and required divestiture of any such contribution exceeding \$250. In addition, the proposed rule provided that, if a registrant provides the required information within 60 days of the date that the information is required to be reported, the registrant is not considered to have violated filing requirements.

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

SECTION 1. 11.41 of the statutes is created to read:

11.41 Certain rule making prohibited. The board shall not promulgate any rule that provides that a registrant is considered to have complied in good faith with filing requirements under s. 11.06 (1) (a) or (b) if the registrant fails to provide the information required to be reported under s. 11.06 (1) (a) or (b) at the times that reporting of that information is required under this chapter or that requires divestiture of any contributions with respect to which required information is not reported at the times required under this chapter.

9 (END)