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GAB and Campaign Finance Reform Pass Senate

Madison, Wis. – Today, the Wisconsin Senate passed Assembly Bill 387 and 388, reforming both the Government Accountability Board (GAB) and campaign finance laws. After passage, Senator Tiffany issued the following statement regarding the two bills:

“When passed in 2007, the GAB was a well-intentioned, bi-partisan initiative. However, the GAB has failed to fulfill its obligations to the voters and citizens of Wisconsin. Their involvement in a partisan, unconstitutional investigation that violated numerous individuals’ first amendment rights was unacceptable. The reforms passed today create two bi-partisan commissions to oversee elections and ethics issues. It is a model commonly used throughout the country and will provide the checks-and-balances necessary to be accountable to the citizens of Wisconsin.”

“A person should not need a law degree to take part in the political process. When your campaign finance laws have been described as ‘labyrinthian’ it is clear reform is necessary.”

Under Assembly Bill 388, the GAB is replaced with two commissions, the Elections Commission and the Ethics Commission. The Elections Commission administers and enforces election laws, and the Ethics Commission administers and enforces campaign finance, ethics, and lobbying laws. Assembly Bill 387 updates our Chapter 11 statutes to reflect recent Supreme Court decisions and more align our statutes with neighboring Midwestern states and federal election laws.

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