



State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1319/P1
JK:cjs

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

1 **AN ACT to repeal** 11.1104 (3), (4), (5), and (6); **to amend** 11.1101 (1) (intro.),
2 11.1101 (2) (intro.), 11.1101 (3) (intro.), 11.1101 (4) (intro.), 11.1103, 11.1104
3 (intro.), 11.1112 and 11.1113 (3) (b); and **to create** 11.1101 (5) and 11.1204 (4)
4 of the statutes; **relating to:** changes to contribution limits for political parties,
5 legislative campaign committees, and segregated funds.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law allows an individual to make unlimited contributions to a political party or legislative campaign committee, but prohibits a political action committee from contributing more than \$12,000 in any calendar year to a political party or legislative campaign committee. Current law also allows a political party or legislative campaign committee to make unlimited contributions to a candidate committee.

This bill limits the contributions that an individual may make to a political party or legislative campaign committee to the amounts that an individual may make under current law to a candidate committee. For example, under current law, the maximum amount of the contributions that an individual may make to the candidate committee of a candidate for governor is \$20,000. Therefore, under the bill, the maximum amount of the contributions that an individual may make to a political party for a candidate for governor that the political party supports is \$20,000. The bill also limits the contributions that a political party or legislative campaign committee may make to a candidate committee to the amounts that an

individual may make under current law to a candidate committee. In addition, the bill limits the contributions that a candidate committee may make to a political party or legislative campaign committee to the amounts that the candidate committee may make under current law to another candidate committee. The bill retains the provision that prohibits a political action committee from contributing more than \$12,000 in any calendar year to a political party or legislative campaign committee.

Under current law, no corporation, cooperative, labor organization, or American Indian tribe may make contributions to a political committee, other than an independent expenditure committee or a referendum committee, but it may make contributions to a segregated fund of a political party or legislative campaign committee to use for purposes other than making contributions to a candidate committee or disbursements for express advocacy. The maximum amount that a corporation, cooperative, labor organization, or American Indian tribe may contribute to the segregated fund is \$12,000, but other persons may make unlimited contributions to the segregated fund. The bill eliminates these provisions related to segregated funds.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 11.1101 (1) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 11.1101 (1) INDIVIDUAL LIMITS. (intro.) An individual may contribute to a
3 candidate committee, political party, or legislative campaign committee no more
4 than the following amounts specified for ~~the~~ a candidate whose nomination or
5 election the individual committee supports [See Figure 11.1101 following]:

6 **SECTION 2.** 11.1101 (2) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 11.1101 (2) CANDIDATE COMMITTEES. (intro.) A candidate committee may
8 contribute to another candidate committee, a political party, or a legislative
9 campaign committee no more than the following amounts specified for ~~the~~ a
10 candidate whose nomination or election the other candidate committee, political
11 party, or legislative campaign committee supports [See Figure 11.1101 following]:

12 **SECTION 3.** 11.1101 (3) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

1 11.1101 (3) POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES. (intro.) A political action committee
2 may contribute to a political party or legislative campaign committee no more than
3 \$12,000 in any calendar year, and to a candidate committee no more than the
4 following amounts specified for the candidate whose nomination or election the
5 candidate committee supports [See Figure 11.1101 following]:

6 **SECTION 4.** 11.1101 (4) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 11.1101 (4) OTHER PERSONS. (intro.) A person, other than a person subject to
8 sub. (1), (2), ~~or (3),~~ or (5) or s. 11.1112, may contribute to a political party or legislative
9 campaign committee no more than \$12,000 in any calendar year, and to a candidate
10 committee no more than the following amounts specified for the candidate whose
11 nomination or election the candidate committee supports:

12 **SECTION 5.** 11.1101 (5) of the statutes is created to read:

13 11.1101 (5) POLITICAL PARTIES AND LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES. A political
14 party or legislative campaign committee may contribute to a candidate committee
15 no more than the following amounts specified for the candidate whose nomination
16 or election the candidate committee supports:

17 (a) Candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state
18 treasurer, attorney general, state superintendent, or justice, \$20,000.

19 (b) Candidates for state senator, \$2,000.

20 (c) Candidates for representative to the assembly, \$1,000.

21 (d) Candidates for court of appeals judge in districts which contain a county
22 having a population of more than 750,000, \$6,000.

23 (e) Candidates for court of appeals judge in other districts, \$5,000.

1 (f) Candidates for circuit judge in circuits having a population of more than
2 300,000, or candidates for district attorney in prosecutorial units having a
3 population of more than 300,000, \$6,000.

4 (g) Candidates for circuit judge in other circuits or candidates for district
5 attorney in other prosecutorial units, \$2,000.

6 (h) Candidates for local offices, an amount equal to the greater of the following:

7 1. Five hundred dollars.

8 2. Two cents times the number of inhabitants of the jurisdiction or district,
9 according to the latest federal census or the census information on which the district
10 is based, as certified by the appropriate filing officer, but not more than \$6,000.

11 **SECTION 6.** 11.1103 of the statutes is amended to read:

12 **11.1103 Applicable periods.** (1) For an individual who is a candidate for an
13 office that the individual holds, the limits under s. 11.1101 (1) to ~~(3)~~ (5) apply during
14 the term of that office.

15 (2) For an individual who is a candidate for an office that the individual does
16 not hold, the limits under s. 11.1101 (1) to ~~(3)~~ (5) apply during the period beginning
17 on the date on which the individual becomes a candidate under s. 11.0101 (1) (a) and
18 ending on the day before the term of office begins for the office sought by the
19 candidate.

20 **SECTION 7.** 11.1104 (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 **11.1104 Exceptions.** (intro.) ~~Except as provided in subs. (3) (b) and (4) (b) and~~
22 ~~s. 11.1112, the~~ The following contributions may be made in unlimited amounts:

23 **SECTION 8.** 11.1104 (3), (4), (5), and (6) of the statutes are repealed.

24 **SECTION 9.** 11.1112 of the statutes is amended to read:

