

Mark D. Gundrum

State Representative ✍ 84th Assembly District

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“PAY TO PLAY” BAN MOVES TO GOVERNOR

Bill Would Make Contributions in Exchange for Votes Illegal

MADISON - Today, the Wisconsin Legislature unanimously approved and sent to the Governor Assembly Bill 1, State Representative Mark Gundrum's (R-New Berlin) proposal which would clearly make it illegal for state or local elected officials to exchange their official actions for campaign contributions.

“Today the Legislature took an important step forward in restoring the public's faith in their government. I urge the Governor to sign the bill as soon as possible and join us in that effort,” Gundrum said.

“For decades Wisconsin has stood as a model for ethical government. Some of the recent allegations against state and local officials over the past year have put that reputation in jeopardy,” Gundrum said. **“When people think their elected officials' votes are just going to the highest bidder, that's when they lose faith in our system. This bill would clearly prohibit this unethical practice and help restore the integrity of our system.”**

Gundrum said an amendment he had added to the bill broadens the definition of “political party” so as to also prohibit the directing of campaign contributions to political parties outside the state in exchange for official action. The same amendment, added to the bill in senate committee, also extends the prohibition on promising official action for campaign contributions to candidates who are running for office but are not yet state or local officeholders. The bill was returned to the Assembly this evening after passing the Senate this afternoon, and passed unanimously by the Assembly, as amended.

“If you are a candidate running for office and promising to take some specific official action if elected in exchange for campaign contributions, that's just as unethical as the person already holding office doing the same thing,” Gundrum said.

In January, Assembly Bill 1 passed the full Assembly on a unanimous bi-partisan vote. The bill now heads to Governor Doyle for his consideration.