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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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**Prepared by:** Katie Bender-Olson, Senior Staff Attorney

April 19, 2022

### 2021 Wisconsin Act 267 [2021 Senate Bill 720]

### Ethics Code Changes

2021 Wisconsin Act 267 makes various changes to ethics laws recommended by the Wisconsin Ethics Commission, which include the following:

- Repealing a requirement that the Ethics Commission regularly submit a report of the names of licensed lobbyists and previously unreported agencies or a person who employs a lobbyist (principal) to the chief clerk of each house of the Legislature during the legislative session.
- Repealing a requirement that the Ethics Commission post a list of pending state agency contracts and orders on its website.
- Providing that an official who works in January is not required to file a statement of economic interests for that year if the official is required to file for fewer than 14 days in that year.
- Requiring an official to file a statement of economic interests no later than 21 days following either: (1) the date the individual's term of office ends; or (2) the date the individual leaves office.
- Specifying that for purposes of a statement of economic interests, "security" that must be reported does not include information about any of the following: (1) a defined benefit retirement plan; (2) an annuity; (3) a money market fund; (4) a mutual fund; (5) an exchange-traded fund; or (6) an exchange-traded note.
- Repealing a provision that prohibits an agency, or an officer or employee of the agency, from requesting appropriations that exceed the amount requested by the agency in the agency's most recent budget request.<sup>1</sup>
- Specifying how an official may dispose of a gift that the official is not permitted to accept or retain.

**Effective date:** April 17, 2022

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<sup>1</sup> This provision was found unconstitutional in *Barnett v. State Ethics Board*, 817 F. Supp. 67 (1993), and has been unenforceable since that time.