

# Senate approves constitutional amendment barring use of private money to administer elections

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The Senate approved a constitutional amendment to bar the use of private money to cover public costs to administer an election.

It also signed off on a bill that would allow clerks to begin processing absentee ballots the day before election day.

The bills were among the dozen election-related bills on today's calendar.

The amendment was approved 21-11 along party lines. The bill to allow the early processing of absentee ballots cleared 20-13 with GOP Sen. André Jacque, of DePere, joining Dems in opposition.

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The amendment previously cleared the Assembly. But the Senate tweaked the language. The new version would have to be approved by the Assembly before the full Legislature could sign off again next session and then send it to voters for a referendum.