
SENATE BILL 6043

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Senator Rasmussen

Read first time 01/13/92. Referred to Committee on Governmental Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to campaign financing; adding new sections to
2 chapter 42.17 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective
3 date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The campaign contribution limits of
6 section 3 of this act apply only to the financing of election campaigns
7 in primary, general, special, or recall elections for state executive
8 offices and state legislative offices. The campaign contribution
9 limits of section 3 of this act do not apply to a political committee
10 established for the exclusive purpose of receiving contributions and
11 making expenditures in support of or in opposition to a ballot
12 proposition campaign, other than the recall of a state executive
13 officer or state legislator.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires to
2 the contrary, the definitions in this section apply throughout sections
3 1 through 3 of this act.

4 (1) "Campaign period" means:

5 (a) For a candidate, the time period beginning on the day an
6 individual becomes a candidate or when a recall of the individual is
7 demanded by filing a charge under RCW 29.82.015, and ending when the
8 final report is filed under RCW 42.17.080(2)(c);

9 (b) For a political committee, the two-year period beginning
10 January 1st of each odd-numbered year.

11 (2) "Candidate" means the individual seeking election or being
12 recalled and a political committee that is under the direction or
13 control of a candidate or an agent of the candidate.

14 (3) "State executive office" means the executive offices for which
15 all electors in the state are eligible to vote, including governor,
16 lieutenant governor, attorney general, state auditor, state treasurer,
17 secretary of state, commissioner of public lands, insurance
18 commissioner, and superintendent of public instruction.

19 (4) "State legislative office" means an elected office in the state
20 senate or the state house of representatives.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) No person may make to a candidate,
22 and no candidate may accept from a person, contributions exceeding one
23 thousand dollars in value for state legislative or state executive
24 offices in a campaign period. For each year after 1992, the commission
25 shall adjust this amount for cost-of-living changes, rounded to the
26 nearest fifty dollars.

27 (2) The portion of a contribution that exceeds the limit prescribed
28 under this section that is received by any candidate shall, within one

1 week of receipt, be returned to the contributor or escheat to the
2 state.

3 (3) Contributions and expenditures by a person controlled by
4 another person are regarded as contributions and expenditures by the
5 latter. A corporation is controlled by another person when the latter
6 owns, directly or indirectly, more than fifty percent of the common
7 stock of the corporation.

8 (4) A contribution to a political party committee or a political
9 committee shall not be earmarked or designated, formally or informally,
10 for a particular candidate or political committee nor may a committee
11 solicit or accept any such contribution.

12 (5) The limitations imposed by this section do not apply to an
13 individual's contributions of the individual's own personal resources
14 to the individual's own campaign, or to surplus funds retained for use
15 in a subsequent campaign of the individual.

16 (6) Contributions made by political committees established,
17 financed, maintained, or controlled by a corporation, organization, or
18 any other person, including a parent, subsidiary, branch, division,
19 department, or local unit of that person, are considered to have been
20 made by a single political committee.

21 (7) Nothing in this section limits transfers between candidates or
22 political committees of funds raised through joint fund-raising
23 efforts.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its
25 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
26 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
27 persons or circumstances is not affected.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act are
2 intended to be remedial and shall be liberally construed to carry out
3 the purposes described in RCW 42.17.010.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act are
5 each added to chapter 42.17 RCW.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act shall take effect January 1,
7 1993.