
HOUSE BILL 3017

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Lantz, Ogden, Cooper, Cole, Chopp, Eickmeyer, Kessler, Butler, Anderson, Wolfe, Regala, Dunshee, Gombosky, Morris, Kastama and Cody

Read first time 01/27/98. Referred to Committee on Government Administration.

1 AN ACT Relating to campaign expenditures for ballot propositions
2 authorized under RCW 47.46.030; and amending RCW 42.17.640.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.17.640 and 1995 c 397 s 20 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus
7 political committee, may make contributions to a candidate for a state
8 legislative office that in the aggregate exceed five hundred dollars or
9 to a candidate for a state office other than a state legislative office
10 that in the aggregate exceed one thousand dollars for each election in
11 which the candidate is on the ballot or appears as a write-in
12 candidate. Contributions made with respect to a primary may not be
13 made after the date of the primary. Contributions made with respect to
14 a general election may not be made after the final day of the
15 applicable election cycle.

16 (2) No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus
17 political committee, may make contributions to a state official against
18 whom recall charges have been filed, or to a political committee having
19 the expectation of making expenditures in support of the recall of the

1 state official, during a recall campaign that in the aggregate exceed
2 five hundred dollars if for a state legislative office or one thousand
3 dollars if for a state office other than a state legislative office.

4 (3)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, no bona fide
5 political party or caucus political committee may make contributions to
6 a candidate during an election cycle that in the aggregate exceed (i)
7 fifty cents multiplied by the number of eligible registered voters in
8 the jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected if the contributor
9 is a caucus political committee or the governing body of a state
10 organization, or (ii) twenty-five cents multiplied by the number of
11 registered voters in the jurisdiction from which the candidate is
12 elected if the contributor is a county central committee or a
13 legislative district committee.

14 (b) No candidate may accept contributions from a county central
15 committee or a legislative district committee during an election cycle
16 that when combined with contributions from other county central
17 committees or legislative district committees would in the aggregate
18 exceed twenty-five cents times the number of registered voters in the
19 jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected.

20 (4)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, no bona fide
21 political party or caucus political committee may make contributions to
22 a state official against whom recall charges have been filed, or to a
23 political committee having the expectation of making expenditures in
24 support of the state official, during a recall campaign that in the
25 aggregate exceed (i) fifty cents multiplied by the number of eligible
26 registered voters in the jurisdiction entitled to recall the state
27 official if the contributor is a caucus political committee or the
28 governing body of a state organization, or (ii) twenty-five cents
29 multiplied by the number of registered voters in the jurisdiction from
30 which the candidate is elected if the contributor is a county central
31 committee or a legislative district committee.

32 (b) No state official against whom recall charges have been filed,
33 no authorized committee of the official, and no political committee
34 having the expectation of making expenditures in support of the recall
35 of a state official may accept contributions from a county central
36 committee or a legislative district committee during an election cycle
37 that when combined with contributions from other county central
38 committees or legislative district committees would in the aggregate

1 exceed twenty-five cents multiplied by the number of registered voters
2 in the jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected.

3 (5) For purposes of determining contribution limits under
4 subsections (3) and (4) of this section, the number of eligible
5 registered voters in a jurisdiction is the number at the time of the
6 most recent general election in the jurisdiction.

7 (6) Notwithstanding subsections (1) through (4) of this section, no
8 person other than an individual, bona fide political party, or caucus
9 political committee may make contributions reportable under this
10 chapter to a caucus political committee that in the aggregate exceed
11 five hundred dollars in a calendar year or to a bona fide political
12 party that in the aggregate exceed two thousand five hundred dollars in
13 a calendar year. This subsection does not apply to loans made in the
14 ordinary course of business.

15 (7) For the purposes of RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790, a
16 contribution to the authorized political committee of a candidate, or
17 of a state official against whom recall charges have been filed, is
18 considered to be a contribution to the candidate or state official.

19 (8) A contribution received within the twelve-month period after a
20 recall election concerning a state office is considered to be a
21 contribution during that recall campaign if the contribution is used to
22 pay a debt or obligation incurred to influence the outcome of that
23 recall campaign.

24 (9) The contributions allowed by subsection (2) of this section are
25 in addition to those allowed by subsection (1) of this section, and the
26 contributions allowed by subsection (4) of this section are in addition
27 to those allowed by subsection (3) of this section.

28 (10) RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790 apply to a special election
29 conducted to fill a vacancy in a state office. However, the
30 contributions made to a candidate or received by a candidate for a
31 primary or special election conducted to fill such a vacancy shall not
32 be counted toward any of the limitations that apply to the candidate or
33 to contributions made to the candidate for any other primary or
34 election.

35 (11) Notwithstanding the other subsections of this section, no
36 corporation or business entity not doing business in Washington state,
37 no labor union with fewer than ten members who reside in Washington
38 state, and no political committee that has not received contributions
39 of ten dollars or more from at least ten persons registered to vote in

1 Washington state during the preceding one hundred eighty days may make
2 contributions reportable under this chapter to a candidate, to a state
3 official against whom recall charges have been filed, or to a political
4 committee having the expectation of making expenditures in support of
5 the recall of the official. This subsection does not apply to loans
6 made in the ordinary course of business.

7 (12) Notwithstanding the other subsections of this section, no
8 county central committee or legislative district committee may make
9 contributions reportable under this chapter to a candidate, state
10 official against whom recall charges have been filed, or political
11 committee having the expectation of making expenditures in support of
12 the recall of a state official if the county central committee or
13 legislative district committee is outside of the jurisdiction entitled
14 to elect the candidate or recall the state official.

15 (13) No person may accept contributions that exceed the
16 contribution limitations provided in this section.

17 (14) No person who is (a) a private developer under the terms of
18 RCW 47.46.030, or a subcontractor of such a developer, (b) a contractor
19 or subcontractor of the department of transportation, or (c) an
20 employee of such a developer, contractor, or subcontractor may make
21 contributions to a political committee related to a ballot proposition
22 authorized under RCW 47.46.030 that in the aggregate exceed five
23 hundred dollars.

24 (15) The following contributions are exempt from the contribution
25 limits of this section:

26 (a) An expenditure or contribution earmarked for voter
27 registration, for absentee ballot information, for precinct caucuses,
28 for get-out-the-vote campaigns, for precinct judges or inspectors, for
29 sample ballots, or for ballot counting, all without promotion of or
30 political advertising for individual candidates; or

31 (b) An expenditure by a political committee for its own internal
32 organization or fund raising without direct association with individual
33 candidates.

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