

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bill Analysis

Bill No. HB 1545

Authorizing public financing of local political campaigns.

Brief title

Hearing Date 2/9/99

Reps Murray, Romer and McIntire
Sponsor(s)

Staff Steve Andin
State Government Committee
Phone 786-7127

BACKGROUND:

Voters approved Initiative Measure No. 134 in 1992.

Among other provisions, Initiative Measure No. 134 prohibited the use of public funds from being used to finance political campaigns of state or local officials. Prior to the approval of Initiative Measure No. 134, Seattle King County programs where public money was used to provide matching funds to candidates for county or city elective offices. The candidates used public money to provide matching funds to candidates for county or city elective offices. The candidates used public money to provide matching funds to candidates for county or city elective offices.

SUMMARY:

Any county with a population of more than one million or a city with a population of 500,000 or more may establish a program where a candidate for a county or city elective office is eligible to receive a subsidy limiting the amount of money that the candidate is authorized to spend on his or her campaign in return for receiving public matching funds to assist in funding his or her campaign.

At present, King County is the only county in the state with a population of more than one million and Seattle is the only city in the state with a population of 500,000 or more.

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.