
HOUSE BILL 1086

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Dunn and Van Luven

Read first time 01/14/1999. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to restrictions on soliciting or accepting
2 contributions; and amending RCW 42.17.710 and 42.17.640.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.17.710 and 1993 c 2 s 11 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 During the period beginning on the thirtieth day before the date a
7 regular legislative session convenes and continuing thirty days past
8 the date of final adjournment, and during the period beginning on the
9 date a special legislative session convenes and continuing through the
10 date that session adjourns, no state official or a person employed by
11 or acting on behalf of a state official or state legislator may solicit
12 or accept contributions to a public office fund, to a candidate or
13 authorized committee, or to retire a campaign debt. However, a state
14 official or state legislator may solicit and receive contributions from
15 a caucus political committee, a county central committee of a political
16 party, or a state committee of a political party during this period if
17 the contributions are used exclusively to retire debts incurred during
18 the previous election cycle.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.17.640 and 1995 c 397 s 20 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus
4 political committee, may make contributions to a candidate for a state
5 legislative office that in the aggregate exceed five hundred dollars or
6 to a candidate for a state office other than a state legislative office
7 that in the aggregate exceed one thousand dollars for each election in
8 which the candidate is on the ballot or appears as a write-in
9 candidate. Contributions made with respect to a primary may not be
10 made after the date of the primary. Contributions made with respect to
11 a general election may not be made after the final day of the
12 applicable election cycle, except that a state legislator or state
13 official may receive contributions from a caucus political committee,
14 county central committee of a political party, or state committee of a
15 political party during the regular session or a special session of the
16 legislature in the year immediately following the applicable election
17 cycle if the contributions are used exclusively to retire campaign debt
18 incurred during that previous election cycle.

19 (2) No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus
20 political committee, may make contributions to a state official against
21 whom recall charges have been filed, or to a political committee having
22 the expectation of making expenditures in support of the recall of the
23 state official, during a recall campaign that in the aggregate exceed
24 five hundred dollars if for a state legislative office or one thousand
25 dollars if for a state office other than a state legislative office.

26 (3)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, no bona fide
27 political party or caucus political committee may make contributions to
28 a candidate during an election cycle that in the aggregate exceed (i)
29 fifty cents multiplied by the number of eligible registered voters in
30 the jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected if the contributor
31 is a caucus political committee or the governing body of a state
32 organization, or (ii) twenty-five cents multiplied by the number of
33 registered voters in the jurisdiction from which the candidate is
34 elected if the contributor is a county central committee or a
35 legislative district committee.

36 (b) No candidate may accept contributions from a county central
37 committee or a legislative district committee during an election cycle
38 that when combined with contributions from other county central
39 committees or legislative district committees would in the aggregate

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

3 (4)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, no bona fide
4 political party or caucus political committee may make contributions to
5 a state official against whom recall charges have been filed, or to a
6 political committee having the expectation of making expenditures in
7 support of the state official, during a recall campaign that in the
8 aggregate exceed (i) fifty cents multiplied by the number of eligible
9 registered voters in the jurisdiction entitled to recall the state
10 official if the contributor is a caucus political committee or the
11 governing body of a state organization, or (ii) twenty-five cents
12 multiplied by the number of registered voters in the jurisdiction from
13 which the candidate is elected if the contributor is a county central
14 committee or a legislative district committee.

15 (b) No state official against whom recall charges have been filed,
16 no authorized committee of the official, and no political committee
17 having the expectation of making expenditures in support of the recall
18 of a state official may accept contributions from a county central
19 committee or a legislative district committee during an election cycle
20 that when combined with contributions from other county central
21 committees or legislative district committees would in the aggregate
22 exceed twenty-five cents multiplied by the number of registered voters
23 in the jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected.

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

28 (6) Notwithstanding subsections (1) through (4) of this section, no
29 person other than an individual, bona fide political party, or caucus
30 political committee may make contributions reportable under this
31 chapter to a caucus political committee that in the aggregate exceed
32 five hundred dollars in a calendar year or to a bona fide political
33 party that in the aggregate exceed two thousand five hundred dollars in
34 a calendar year. This subsection does not apply to loans made in the
35 ordinary course of business.

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

1 (8) A contribution received within the twelve-month period after a
2 recall election concerning a state office is considered to be a
3 contribution during that recall campaign if the contribution is used to
4 pay a debt or obligation incurred to influence the outcome of that
5 recall campaign.

6 (9) The contributions allowed by subsection (2) of this section are
7 in addition to those allowed by subsection (1) of this section, and the
8 contributions allowed by subsection (4) of this section are in addition
9 to those allowed by subsection (3) of this section.

10 (10) RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790 apply to a special election
11 conducted to fill a vacancy in a state office. However, the
12 contributions made to a candidate or received by a candidate for a
13 primary or special election conducted to fill such a vacancy shall not
14 be counted toward any of the limitations that apply to the candidate or
15 to contributions made to the candidate for any other primary or
16 election.

17 (11) Notwithstanding the other subsections of this section, no
18 corporation or business entity not doing business in Washington state,
19 no labor union with fewer than ten members who reside in Washington
20 state, and no political committee that has not received contributions
21 of ten dollars or more from at least ten persons registered to vote in
22 Washington state during the preceding one hundred eighty days may make
23 contributions reportable under this chapter to a candidate, to a state
24 official against whom recall charges have been filed, or to a political
25 committee having the expectation of making expenditures in support of
26 the recall of the official. This subsection does not apply to loans
27 made in the ordinary course of business.

28 (12) Notwithstanding the other subsections of this section, no
29 county central committee or legislative district committee may make
30 contributions reportable under this chapter to a candidate, state
31 official against whom recall charges have been filed, or political
32 committee having the expectation of making expenditures in support of
33 the recall of a state official if the county central committee or
34 legislative district committee is outside of the jurisdiction entitled
35 to elect the candidate or recall the state official.

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

38 (14) The following contributions are exempt from the contribution
39 limits of this section:

1 (a) An expenditure or contribution earmarked for voter
2 registration, for absentee ballot information, for precinct caucuses,
3 for get-out-the-vote campaigns, for precinct judges or inspectors, for
4 sample ballots, or for ballot counting, all without promotion of or
5 political advertising for individual candidates; or

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

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