
HOUSE BILL 2335

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Campbell, Miloscia and Anderson

Prefiled 1/3/2000. Read first time 01/10/2000. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to banning certain campaign expenditures; amending
2 RCW 42.17.640; and adding a new section to chapter 42.17 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Except as provided under subsection (2) of this section, a bona
7 fide political party, caucus political committee, county central
8 committee, legislative district committee, or any other entity
9 associated with a bona fide political party may not expend money to
10 support or oppose, directly or indirectly, a candidate for public
11 office or to support or oppose the recall of a person holding public
12 office against whom recall charges have been filed. This prohibition
13 includes all political advertising taken as independent expenditures
14 that supports or opposes a candidacy or recall, whether or not a
15 candidate's name or a public office is mentioned in the advertising.

16 (2) Subsection (1) of this section does not preclude contributions
17 made directly to the authorized committee of a candidate or person
18 against whom recall charges have been filed or contributions made
19 directly to a political committee having expectations of making

1 expenditures in support of the recall of a person holding public office
2 against whom recall charges have been filed. However, where
3 applicable, the contributions are subject to limitations established by
4 law, including, but not limited to, limitations established under RCW
5 42.17.105(8) and 42.17.640.

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

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

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

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

35 (b) No candidate 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 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~~) promoting or opposing individual
6 candidates, either directly or indirectly, whether or not individual
7 candidates are named in the materials or advertising; or
8 (b) An expenditure by a political committee for its own internal
9 organization or fund raising without direct association with individual
10 candidates.

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