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HOUSE BILL 2552

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Dunshee and Edmonds

Read first time 01/17/2000. Referred to Committee on Finance.

1 AN ACT Relating to funding public disclosure activities; adding a  
2 new chapter to Title 82 RCW; providing an effective date; and providing  
3 for submission of this act to a vote of the people.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** For the purposes of this chapter,  
6 "candidate," "contribution," "expenditure," "lobbyist," and "political  
7 committee" are each defined as provided in RCW 42.17.020.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The public disclosure account is created  
9 in the state treasury. Except for unanticipated receipts under chapter  
10 43.79 RCW, moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.  
11 Expenditures from the account may be used only for support of the  
12 public disclosure activities under chapter 42.17 RCW.

13 (2) At the beginning of each fiscal biennium, the state treasurer  
14 shall determine the balance in the public disclosure account. If the  
15 balance is less than the threshold amount, the state treasurer shall  
16 transfer sufficient moneys from the general fund to the public  
17 disclosure account to bring the balance up to the threshold amount.  
18 For the biennium beginning July 1, 2001, the threshold amount is four

1 million dollars. At the beginning of each subsequent fiscal biennium,  
2 the state treasurer shall adjust the threshold amount by the biennial  
3 percentage change in the implicit price deflator for personal  
4 consumption expenditures. The state treasurer shall use published data  
5 or estimates for the implicit price deflator that the state treasurer  
6 deems are suitable for the purposes of this section.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) A tax is imposed on each contribution  
8 reported by a candidate or political committee under RCW 42.17.080,  
9 equal to four percent of the monetary value of the contribution. The  
10 candidate or political committee shall pay the tax to the department.

11 (2) A contribution other than money or its equivalent is exempt  
12 from tax under this section if received from an individual who is  
13 contributing his or her own property.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A tax is imposed on each expenditure  
15 reported by a lobbyist under RCW 42.17.170, equal to one percent of the  
16 monetary value of the expenditure. The lobbyist shall pay the tax to  
17 the department.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the taxes  
19 imposed in this chapter. The tax due dates, reporting periods, and  
20 return requirements applicable to chapter 82.04 RCW apply to the taxes  
21 imposed in this chapter.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute  
23 a new chapter in Title 82 RCW.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act takes effect July 1, 2001.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The secretary of state shall submit this act  
26 to the people for their adoption and ratification, or rejection, at the  
27 next general election to be held in this state, in accordance with  
28 Article II, section 1 of the state Constitution and the laws adopted to  
29 facilitate its operation.

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