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SENATE BILL 6226

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

By Senators Fairley, Rockefeller, Brown and Spanel

Read first time 01/09/2006.      Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1            AN ACT Relating to campaign contribution limits for candidates for  
2 judicial office; amending RCW 42.17.700; adding new sections to chapter  
3 42.17 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

7            (1) The contribution limits in this section apply to candidates for  
8 judicial office.

9            (2) No person may make contributions to a candidate for a court of  
10 limited jurisdiction or for superior court that in the aggregate exceed  
11 six hundred seventy-five dollars or to a candidate for the state  
12 supreme court or court of appeals that in the aggregate exceed one  
13 thousand three hundred fifty dollars for each election in which the  
14 candidate is on the ballot or appears as a write-in candidate.  
15 Contributions made with respect to a primary may not be made after the  
16 date of the primary.      However, contributions to a candidate or a  
17 candidate's authorized committee may be made with respect to a primary  
18 until thirty days after the primary, subject to the following  
19 limitations:    (a) The candidate lost the primary; (b) the candidate's

1 authorized committee has insufficient funds to pay debts outstanding as  
2 of the date of the primary; and (c) the contributions may only be  
3 raised and spent to satisfy the outstanding debt. Contributions made  
4 with respect to a general election may not be made after the final day  
5 of the applicable election cycle.

6 (3) This section and RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790 apply to a  
7 special election conducted to fill a vacancy in an office. However,  
8 the contributions made to a candidate or received by a candidate for a  
9 primary or special election conducted to fill the vacancy will not be  
10 counted toward any of the limitations that apply to the candidate or to  
11 contributions made to the candidate for any other primary or election.

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

14 (5) The dollar limits in this section must be adjusted according to  
15 RCW 42.17.690.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17 RCW  
17 to read as follows:

18 The commission shall adopt rules to carry out this act.

19 **Sec. 3.** RCW 42.17.700 and 1993 c 2 s 10 are each amended to read  
20 as follows:

21 (1) Contributions to candidates for state office made and received  
22 before December 3, 1992, are considered to be contributions under RCW  
23 42.17.640 through 42.17.790. Monetary contributions that exceed the  
24 contribution limitations and that have not been spent by the recipient  
25 of the contribution by December 3, 1992, must be disposed of in  
26 accordance with RCW 42.17.095.

27 (2) Contributions to other candidates subject to the contribution  
28 limits of this chapter made and received before the effective date of  
29 this act are considered to be contributions under RCW 42.17.640 through  
30 42.17.790. Contributions that exceed the contribution limitations and  
31 that have not been spent by the recipient of the contribution by the  
32 effective date of this act must be disposed of in accordance with RCW  
33 42.17.095 (1) through (5) and (8).

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate

1 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
2 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
3 immediately.

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