

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1375

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections, March 20, 2019

Title: An act relating to applying campaign contribution limits to candidates for all port districts.

Brief Description: Applying campaign contribution limits to candidates for all port districts.

Sponsors: Representatives Wylie, Stonier, Vick, Harris, Gregerson, Kraft, Appleton, Dolan, Pellicciotti, Doglio and Fey.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/05/19, 98-0.

Committee Activity: State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections: 3/15/19, 3/20/19 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Applies campaign contribution limits to all port district elections, regardless of district population.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL RELATIONS & ELECTIONS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Hunt, Chair; Kuderer, Vice Chair; Zeiger, Ranking Member; Bailey, Hasegawa, Hawkins and Takko.

Staff: Samuel Brown (786-7470)

Background: The Fair Campaign Practices Act, enacted following passage of Initiative 134 in 1992, limits campaign contributions, regulates independent expenditures, restricts the use of public funds for political purposes, and requires public officials to report gifts received in excess of \$50.

State parties and caucus political parties may contribute up to \$1 per registered voter to a port commissioner candidate, while county central committees and legislative district committees combined may contribute up to \$0.50 per registered voter. Individuals, unions, businesses, and other political action committees may contribute up to \$2,000 per election to a port

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commissioner candidate. These limits are adjusted for inflation by the Public Disclosure Commission every two years.

Campaign contribution limits apply to candidates for port commissioner only if the port district has over 200,000 registered voters. The Port of Seattle and the Port of Tacoma are the two port districts in the state that have over 200,000 registered voters.

Summary of Bill: Campaign contribution limits apply to all port district offices, regardless of the number of registered voters in the district.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This is a great bill. Please pass it.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Sharon Wylie, Prime Sponsor.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.