

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SB 5855

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Concerning the use of campaign funds to reimburse expenses for child care and other caregiving services.

**Sponsors:** Senators Lovelett, Nobles, Wilson, C., Billig, Das, Hasegawa, Hawkins, Hunt, Keiser, Kuderer, Nguyen, Randall, Saldaña, Stanford and Trudeau.

**Senate Committee on State Government & Elections**  
**House Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations**

**Background:** All monetary contributions received by a candidate for office must be deposited into an account established and designated for that purpose. Expenditures from the account must be authorized by the candidate or a person named on the candidate's registration form.

Campaign contributions may be used for personal expenses of a candidate, the candidate's treasurer, or another individual under limited circumstances such as:

- reimbursement for or payments to cover lost earnings incurred as a result of campaigning;
- reimbursement for direct out-of-pocket expenses related to the election campaign and post-election activities; and
- for repayment of loans made by the candidate to political committees, although a candidate may not be reimbursed for more than \$4,700 for loans to the candidate's own authorized committee.

By administrative rule, campaigns may reimburse candidates for the fair market value of expenditures that are both personal and campaign-related. The rule provides, as an example, that a candidate may be reimbursed from their campaign for the portion of child care costs that occurred directly as a result of the candidate's campaign activities. While the example exists in rule, no analogous provision exists in the Revised Code of Washington.

**Summary:** Expenses for the direct care, protection, and supervision of a child or person

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over whom the candidate has direct caregiving responsibility, incurred directly due to campaign activities, are an example of an out-of-pocket expense that may be reimbursed with campaign funds.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	46	3	
House	95	1	(House amended)
Senate	45	4	(Senate concurred)

**Effective:** June 9, 2022