

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1018

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
State Government & Tribal Affairs

**Title:** An act relating to the time limit for state officials to solicit or accept contributions.

**Brief Description:** Modifying the time limit for state officials to solicit or accept contributions.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Orcutt, Haigh, Haler, Takko, Pearson, Strow, Schindler, McCune, Blake, Chandler, Moeller and Seaquist.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

State Government & Tribal Affairs: 2/26/07, 2/27/07 [DPS].

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- Returns the post-session freeze for soliciting and accepting campaign contributions to 14 days after legislative session ends.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL AFFAIRS

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 5 members: Representatives Chandler, Ranking Minority Member; Armstrong, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Kretz, Miloscia and Ormsby.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 4 members: Representatives Hunt, Chair; Appleton, Vice Chair; Green and McDermott.

**Staff:** Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

**Background:**

Initiative 134 established campaign contribution limits for state legislative office and statewide executive office. The initiative prohibited a state official, and persons employed by or acting on behalf of a state official, from soliciting or accepting contributions to a public office fund, an authorized committee, or to retire a campaign debt during the periods 30 days before, during, and 30 days after a legislative session. The prohibition was extended through the period of any special session.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

In 2006, legislation was enacted changing the date of the primary from the third Tuesday in September to the third Tuesday in August. In that legislation, the 30-day post session freeze was eliminated, allowing state officials to solicit and accept contributions the day after a legislative session ends.

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**Summary of Substitute Bill:**

The post-session freeze for soliciting and accepting campaign contributions is changed from the day after legislative session ends to 14 days after legislative session ends.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:**

The substitute bill changed the post-session freeze for soliciting and accepting campaign contributions from 30 days to 14 days.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date of Substitute Bill:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) When the bill changing the date of the primary was passed, the 30-day post session freeze for soliciting and accepting campaign contributions was eliminated. This bill reinstates that post-session freeze. Most of the critical votes taken in the Legislature are at the end of session. The bill will help to maintain the public trust. Initiative 134 passed with a 70 percent majority. While the primary election fund raising period is shortened, it does not affect the general election period. Returning the post-session freeze to 30 days will not hurt an incumbent.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Representative Orcutt, prime sponsor.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.