Washington State House of Representatives Office of Program Research

BILL ANALYSIS

State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee

HB 1551

Brief Description: Allowing public funding of local office campaigns.

Sponsors: Representatives McDermott, Miloscia, McIntire, Fromhold, Dunshee, Cody, Green, Ormsby, Appleton, Hunt, Chase, Schual-Berke, Sells, Roberts, Hasegawa, Kagi, Moeller, Pedersen and Rolfes.

Brief Summary of Bill

Allows the use of public funds to finance campaigns for local office.

Hearing Date: 2/7/07

Staff: Alison Hellberg (786-7152).

Background:

The Fair Campaign Practices Act, enacted as part of Initiative 134 in 1992, imposes campaign contribution limits on elections for state office. It also prohibits the use of public funds to finance political campaigns for state or local office. The Public Disclosure Commission is responsible for enforcing campaign finance laws.

Summary of Bill:

The prohibition against the use of public funds to finance campaigns for local office is removed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

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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.