
HOUSE BILL 1268

State of Washington

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By Representatives Dunshee, Wolfe, Linville, Riley, Quall, Grant, Pruitt, Romero, R. Meyers, Zellinsky, Eide, Veloria, Karahalios, Brough, Brown, Kessler, Edmondson and Finkbeiner

Read first time 01/20/93. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to spending in election campaigns; adding a new
2 section to chapter 42.17 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 29.80
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The tremendous increases in the costs of
6 election campaigns, when coupled with recently enacted limits on
7 campaign contributions, creates a situation favoring the election of
8 wealthy candidates able to spend substantial amounts of their own
9 resources for the purpose of winning elections. In order to decrease
10 the advantage of candidates' wealth in election contests, the
11 legislature enacts this law directing the adoption of voluntary
12 campaign spending limits for state election contests and disclosure of
13 those candidates who agree to abide by the voluntary limits and those
14 who do not.

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

17 (1) The public disclosure commission shall adopt recommended
18 spending limits for candidates for the following offices: Governor,

1 lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, attorney
2 general, commissioner of public lands, insurance commissioner,
3 superintendent of public instruction, member of the state senate,
4 member of the state house of representatives, justice of the supreme
5 court, judge of the court of appeals, judge of the superior court,
6 member of the United States senate, and member of the United States
7 house of representatives. In adopting such recommended spending
8 limits, the commission shall consider the average expenditure amounts
9 for the candidates who received the highest and next highest number of
10 votes in the 1992 general elections for each office for which the
11 commission is required to recommend a spending limit. Unless the
12 commission finds it would be inappropriate or unrealistic, the
13 commission shall base its recommended spending limits on such average
14 expenditure amounts.

15 (2) Each candidate for an office subject to a recommended spending
16 limit may execute, and file with the commission, a promise that the
17 candidate will stay within the limit. A candidate's promise that is
18 executed and filed in conformance with this section and with the rules
19 adopted by the commission to implement this section shall be binding on
20 the candidate. Any candidate who violates his or her promise to stay
21 within the voluntary spending limit is in violation of this chapter.
22 The commission shall remove the name of such a candidate from the list
23 prepared under subsection (4) of this section.

24 (3) The commission shall prescribe the form which shall be used for
25 executing a promise under this section and the date by which the
26 promise must be filed.

27 (4) The commission, during an election campaign, shall periodically
28 publish a list identifying each candidate who has executed a binding
29 promise under this section.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 29.80 RCW
31 to read as follows:

32 The secretary of state shall add to each candidates' pamphlet a
33 list of the campaign spending limits recommended by the public
34 disclosure commission for each of the state offices for which the
35 statements of candidates appear in the pamphlet and a brief explanation
36 of the effect of a promise filed with the commission under section 2 of
37 this act.

1 In preparing the candidates' pamphlet for publication, the
2 secretary of state shall secure from the public disclosure commission
3 its most current list of candidates who have promised to limit
4 spending, as that list is specified in section 2 of this act. Using
5 this list, the secretary shall add a prominent notice in the
6 candidates' pamphlet following the statement of each person on the
7 list. The notice shall state: "This candidate has promised to abide
8 by the campaign spending limit for the office recommended by the
9 state's public disclosure commission." Following the statement in the
10 pamphlet of each other candidate for state office, the secretary shall
11 add a prominent notice which states: "This candidate has **not** promised
12 to abide by the campaign spending limit for the office recommended by
13 the state's public disclosure commission."

14 For the purposes of this section, "state office" means the offices
15 listed in section 2(1) of this act for which the public disclosure
16 commission has adopted recommended spending limits.

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