
HOUSE BILL 2572

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Campbell, Miloscia, Schmidt, Veloria, Hunt, Benson, Upthegrove and McDermott

Read first time 01/22/2002. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to limiting campaign contributions; and amending
2 RCW 42.17.640.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.17.640 and 2001 c 208 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus
7 political committee, may make contributions to a candidate for a state
8 legislative office, for a county office in a county that has over two
9 hundred thousand registered voters, or for a public office in a special
10 purpose district authorized to provide freight and passenger transfer
11 and terminal facilities that has over two hundred thousand registered
12 voters that in the aggregate exceed five hundred dollars or to a
13 candidate for a state office other than a state legislative office that
14 in the aggregate exceed one thousand dollars for each election in which
15 the candidate is on the ballot or appears as a write-in candidate.
16 Contributions made with respect to a primary may not be made after the
17 date of the primary. However, contributions to a candidate or a
18 candidate's authorized committee may be made with respect to a primary
19 until thirty days after the primary, subject to the following

1 limitations: (a) The candidate lost the primary; (b) the candidate's
2 authorized committee has insufficient funds to pay debts outstanding as
3 of the date of the primary; and (c) the contributions may only be
4 raised and spent to satisfy the outstanding debt. Contributions made
5 with respect to a general election may not be made after the final day
6 of the applicable election cycle.

7 (2) No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus
8 political committee, may make contributions to a state official against
9 whom recall charges have been filed, or to a political committee having
10 the expectation of making expenditures in support of the recall of the
11 state official, during a recall campaign that in the aggregate exceed
12 five hundred dollars if for a state legislative office or one thousand
13 dollars if for a state office other than a state legislative office.

14 (3)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, no bona fide
15 political party or caucus political committee may make contributions to
16 a candidate during an election cycle that in the aggregate exceed (i)
17 fifty cents multiplied by the number of eligible registered voters in
18 the jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected if the contributor
19 is a caucus political committee or the governing body of a state
20 organization, or (ii) twenty-five cents multiplied by the number of
21 registered voters in the jurisdiction from which the candidate is
22 elected if the contributor is a county central committee or a
23 legislative district committee.

24 (b) No candidate may accept contributions from a county central
25 committee or a legislative district committee during an election cycle
26 that when combined with contributions from other county central
27 committees or legislative district committees would in the aggregate
28 exceed twenty-five cents times the number of registered voters in the
29 jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected.

30 (4)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, no bona fide
31 political party or caucus political committee may make contributions to
32 a state official against whom recall charges have been filed, or to a
33 political committee having the expectation of making expenditures in
34 support of the state official, during a recall campaign that in the
35 aggregate exceed (i) fifty cents multiplied by the number of eligible
36 registered voters in the jurisdiction entitled to recall the state
37 official if the contributor is a caucus political committee or the
38 governing body of a state organization, or (ii) twenty-five cents
39 multiplied by the number of registered voters in the jurisdiction from

1 which the candidate is elected if the contributor is a county central
2 committee or a legislative district committee.

3 (b) No state official against whom recall charges have been filed,
4 no authorized committee of the official, and no political committee
5 having the expectation of making expenditures in support of the recall
6 of a state official may accept contributions from a county central
7 committee or a legislative district committee during an election cycle
8 that when combined with contributions from other county central
9 committees or legislative district committees would in the aggregate
10 exceed twenty-five cents multiplied by the number of registered voters
11 in the jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected.

12 (5) For purposes of determining contribution limits (~~under~~
13 ~~subsections (3) and (4) of this section~~)), the number of eligible
14 registered voters in a jurisdiction is the number at the time of the
15 most recent general election in the jurisdiction.

16 (6) Notwithstanding subsections (1) through (4) of this section, no
17 person other than an individual, bona fide political party, or caucus
18 political committee may make contributions reportable under this
19 chapter to a caucus political committee that in the aggregate exceed
20 five hundred dollars in a calendar year or to a bona fide political
21 party that in the aggregate exceed two thousand five hundred dollars in
22 a calendar year. This subsection does not apply to loans made in the
23 ordinary course of business.

24 (7) For the purposes of RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790, a
25 contribution to the authorized political committee of a candidate, or
26 of a state official against whom recall charges have been filed, is
27 considered to be a contribution to the candidate or state official.

28 (8) A contribution received within the twelve-month period after a
29 recall election concerning a state office is considered to be a
30 contribution during that recall campaign if the contribution is used to
31 pay a debt or obligation incurred to influence the outcome of that
32 recall campaign.

33 (9) The contributions allowed by subsection (2) of this section are
34 in addition to those allowed by subsection (1) of this section, and the
35 contributions allowed by subsection (4) of this section are in addition
36 to those allowed by subsection (3) of this section.

37 (10) RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790 apply to a special election
38 conducted to fill a vacancy in a state office. However, the
39 contributions made to a candidate or received by a candidate for a

1 primary or special election conducted to fill such a vacancy shall not
2 be counted toward any of the limitations that apply to the candidate or
3 to contributions made to the candidate for any other primary or
4 election.

5 (11) Notwithstanding the other subsections of this section, no
6 corporation or business entity not doing business in Washington state,
7 no labor union with fewer than ten members who reside in Washington
8 state, and no political committee that has not received contributions
9 of ten dollars or more from at least ten persons registered to vote in
10 Washington state during the preceding one hundred eighty days may make
11 contributions reportable under this chapter to a candidate, to a state
12 official against whom recall charges have been filed, or to a political
13 committee having the expectation of making expenditures in support of
14 the recall of the official. This subsection does not apply to loans
15 made in the ordinary course of business.

16 (12) Notwithstanding the other subsections of this section, no
17 county central committee or legislative district committee may make
18 contributions reportable under this chapter to a candidate, state
19 official against whom recall charges have been filed, or political
20 committee having the expectation of making expenditures in support of
21 the recall of a state official if the county central committee or
22 legislative district committee is outside of the jurisdiction entitled
23 to elect the candidate or recall the state official.

24 (13) No person may accept contributions that exceed the
25 contribution limitations provided in this section.

26 (14) The following contributions are exempt from the contribution
27 limits of this section:

28 (a) An expenditure or contribution earmarked for voter
29 registration, for absentee ballot information, for precinct caucuses,
30 for get-out-the-vote campaigns, for precinct judges or inspectors, for
31 sample ballots, or for ballot counting, all without promotion of or
32 political advertising for individual candidates; or

33 (b) An expenditure by a political committee for its own internal
34 organization or fund raising without direct association with individual
35 candidates.

--- END ---