

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5855

As of January 25, 2022

Title: An act relating to the use of campaign funds to reimburse expenses for child care and other caregiving services.

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.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: State Government & Elections: 1/26/22.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Authorizes the use of campaign contributions to reimburse candidates for expenses for the direct care, protection, and supervision of a child or person over whom the candidate has direct caregiving responsibility incurred directly due to campaign activities.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & ELECTIONS

Staff: Samuel Brown (786-7470)

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:

- as reimbursement for or payments to cover lost earnings incurred as a result of

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- campaigning;
- as 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 of Bill: Candidates may be reimbursed from campaign funds for expenses for the direct care, protection, and supervision of a child or person over whom the candidate has direct caregiving responsibility incurred directly due to campaign activities.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.