

HB 1326 -- Campaign Contributions

Sponsor: Bringer

Beginning January 1, 2011, this bill changes the laws regarding campaign contributions to candidates and committees. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Limits campaign contributions from any person other than the candidate in any one election to candidates for statewide office at \$1,275; for state senator, \$650; and for state representative, \$325. Limits for local candidate contributions are based on population and are specified in the bill. Candidate committees will be exempt from these limits;

(2) Limits contributions made or accepted by political party committees to \$10,000 for a statewide candidate; \$5,000 for a state senator candidate; \$2,500 for a state representative candidate; and 10 times the allowable individual contribution for candidates for other local offices;

(3) Requires contributions from children younger than 14 years of age to be counted equally toward their parents' contribution limits or, in the case of a single parent, counted fully against that parent's contribution;

(4) Establishes a surcharge penalty payable to the Missouri Ethics Commission of \$1,000 plus the amount of the nonallowable contribution for a violation of the campaign contribution limits by any committee and requires the candidate to return the nonallowable contributions to the contributor within 10 business days; and

(5) Requires a separate accounting procedure for funds received and expended before January 1, 2011, and allows the use of those funds based on the current laws.