

HB 237 -- Ethics and Campaign Contributions

Sponsor: Zimmerman

This bill changes the laws regarding ethics, lobbying, and campaign contributions. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Prohibits any currently serving state representative or senator from contracting with or soliciting any other currently serving representative or senator for the purpose of securing services for political fund-raising, campaigning, or consulting in any way related to the election of any state or federal office;

(2) Prohibits an elected or appointed official of the state or any political subdivision or his or her staff from acting or registering as a lobbyist within the one-year period after leaving office or employment. This provision will not apply to a person who is a lobbyist solely for a governmental entity within the state;

(3) Requires a committee treasurer or deputy treasurer to reside in the district or county in which the committee sits;

(4) Prohibits an individual from serving as treasurer or deputy treasurer for more than one committee at the same time. The Missouri Ethics Commission will enforce this provision by seeking injunctive relief in the circuit court of Cole County to enforce an order to vacate;

(5) Limits each legislative and senatorial district committee to a single address in the district it sits for purposes of receiving contributions;

(6) Imposes, beginning January 1, 2012, campaign finance limits for candidates in any one election. To elect statewide officials including the Office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, and Attorney General, the limit will be \$2,000; for a state senator, \$1,000; for a state representative, \$500; for other offices including judicial offices in areas with less than 100,000 individuals, \$500; for other offices including judicial offices in areas with at least 100,000 but fewer than 250,000 individuals, \$1,000; and for other offices including judicial offices in areas with at least 250,000 individuals, \$2,000;

(7) Specifies that campaign finance limits will increase on January 1 in even-numbered years by multiplying the campaign limit by the federal Consumer Price Index and rounding to the nearest \$25 amount for all years after January 1, 2012;

(8) Requires a campaign contribution from an individual younger than 14 years of age to be considered made by the parents or guardians and attributed toward the campaign contribution limits. The contribution will be attributed 50% to each custodial parent or guardian or 100% if there is only one parent or guardian; and

(9) Specifies that any committee that accepts or gives contributions in violation of these provisions will be subject to a surcharge of \$1,000 plus the amount of the nonallowable contribution. These campaign finance limits will not apply to contributions received by candidate committees.