

HB 681 -- Campaign Finance

Sponsor: Bringer

This bill changes the laws regarding campaign financing. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Imposes limits on the amount of contributions that may be received from a person who is not the candidate to candidate committees, exploratory committees, campaign committees, and continuing committees that are not political party committees. Beginning August 28, 2007, the maximum contribution for the Office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, and Attorney General will be \$1,275. The maximum contribution for a state senator will be \$650 and \$325 for a state representative. For all other offices, including judicial offices, in districts or wards with populations under 100,000, the maximum contribution will be \$350; \$650 for districts or wards with a population of 100,000 to 249,999; and \$1,275 for districts or wards with a population of at least 250,000;

(2) Specifies a formula for increasing these maximum contribution limits each January in even-numbered years based on the cumulative federal Consumer Price Index;

(3) Establishes maximum contribution limits to political party committees at \$12,750 for the Office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, and Attorney General; \$6,400 for a state senator; and \$3,200 for a state representative. The maximum contribution for all other offices from districts with certain populations will be 10 times the previously specified contribution limits for these offices;

(4) Requires contributions from individuals 13 years of age or younger to be considered as contributions made by their parents or guardians. If there are two custodial parents, the contribution is attributed 50% to each parent; and

(5) Creates a penalty of \$1,000 plus the full amount of the illegal contributions for violating the financing rules and failing to return illegal contributions within 10 business days after notice from the Missouri Ethics Commission.