

HB 1337 -- Campaign Contributions

Sponsor: Dusenberg

Beginning January 1, 2011, this bill changes the laws regarding campaign contributions to both 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 \$3,000; for state senator, \$1,500; and for state representative, \$750. Contributions for local candidates including judicial office are based on population and specified in the bill. Certain candidate committees are exempt from these limitations;

(2) Limits donations made 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. Political party committees may also expend up to 50% of these limits on a candidate who is unopposed in a primary election;

(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 full amount of a nonallowable contribution for a violation of the campaign contribution limits by any committee and requires a candidate to return any nonallowable contribution to the contributor within 10 business days;

(5) Requires a separate accounting procedure for funds used prior to January 1, 2011, and allows the use of those funds based upon current law;

(6) Limits contributions to a political party or continuing committee from any one person or entity to \$1,500 for a particular election and allows political party committees to make unlimited in-kind contributions or expenditures on behalf of a candidate if the contributions or expenditures are not coordinated with the candidate;

(7) Prohibits all contributions between continuing committees;

(8) Prohibits fundraising events or solicitation of

contributions or expenditures on state-owned property including the property of political subdivisions;

(9) Prohibits fundraising events within 100 miles of the State Capitol Building when the legislature is in regular session;

(10) Requires contributions for leadership positions in the General Assembly to be disclosed to the Missouri Ethics Commission and made available to the public in the same manner as required in Section 130.057, RSMo; and

(11) Increases the penalty for a purposeful violation of Chapter 130 from a class A misdemeanor to a class D felony.