



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2593

campaign finance; contribution limits

Sponsors: Representative Mesnard

DPA/SE Committee on Judiciary

DPA Caucus and COW

X As Transmitted to the Governor

OVERVIEW

HB 2593 increases the amount of money individuals and political committees may contribute to a candidate and removes the aggregate contribution limit for individuals and political committees.

HISTORY

Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) Title 16, Chapter 6, pertains to campaign contributions and expenses for elections and electors. Specifically, A.R.S. § 16-905 provides limits on the amount of contributions candidates for office may receive during an election from individuals, single political committees and all combined political committees, excluding political parties. Two contribution limits exist for political committees and a political committee is qualified to contribute at the higher limit by receiving at least \$10 from at least 500 individuals. The Arizona Secretary of State is required to biennially adjust campaign contribution limits by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), a monthly statistic published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics reflecting the average change over time in the price urban consumers pay for a basket of goods and services. The Citizens' Clean Election Act reduces campaign contribution limits to 80% of the statutorily mandated limits (A.R.S. § 16-941).

A.R.S. § 16-901 defines *contribution* to mean any gift or subscription, loan, advance or deposit of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing an election, including supporting or opposing the recall of a public office or supporting or opposing the circulation of a petition for a ballot measure, question or proposition or the recall of a public office. The definition of *election* includes the primary and general election as one election period and pertains to any initiative, referendum, proposition, primary, general, recall, special or runoff election for any office in the state other than precinct committeeman or federal office.

PROVISIONS

- Increases the amount a person may contribute and a candidate or candidate's campaign committee may receive to the following amounts for an election for statewide office, legislative office or other office:
 - \$2,500 from an individual; and
 - \$2,500 from a single political committee, excluding political parties, not certified to contribute at the higher limit.
- Increases, from \$2,000 to \$5,000, the amount a single political committee, excluding political parties, certified to contribute at the higher limit may contribute and a candidate or candidate's campaign committee may receive from a single political committee, for an election other than for a statewide office.

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- Removes the aggregate limit on the amount of contributions a candidate may receive from all political committees, excluding political parties.
- Removes the aggregate limit on an individual's contributions to state and local candidates or political committees that contribute to state or local candidates.
- Changes the definition of *election* as it relates to campaign contributions to not include the primary with the general election.
- Requires a candidate or a candidate's campaign committee to give notice to the filing officer for single source contributions of at least \$1,000 that are received less than 20 days before the election.
- Directs notices for single source contributions of at least \$1,000 to be filed within 72 hours of receipt and include the date of receipt, the name of the contributor and the amount of the contribution.
- Specifies that the date of receipt of a contribution is the date the candidate's campaign committee obtains possession of the contribution.
- Requires contributions subject to notice to be included in the next regular campaign contribution report.
- Stipulates that a person or campaign committee that knowingly violates the procedure for filing a notice is liable in civil action for a civil penalty of up to three times the amount improperly reported.
- Makes technical and conforming changes.