

MAR 8 1995

STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 310

BY CHURCHILL

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to political contributions, by prohibiting
 2 corporations, insurance companies, and financial institutions
 3 from making contributions on ballot issues and by restricting
 4 the size of individual and certain political committee
 5 contributions to candidates during an election cycle.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 310

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 56.12B LIMITATIONS ON
2 CONTRIBUTIONS.

3 1. A person, other than a political committee, shall not
4 in any one election make contributions which exceed five
5 thousand dollars to a candidate for any of the following
6 offices:

- 7 a. Office of the governor.
- 8 b. Office of lieutenant governor.
- 9 c. Office of secretary of state.
- 10 d. Office of treasurer of state.
- 11 e. Office of auditor of state.
- 12 f. Office of secretary of agriculture.
- 13 g. Office of attorney general.

14 2. A person, other than a political committee, shall not
15 in any one election make contributions which exceed two
16 thousand dollars to a candidate for state legislative office.

17 3. A political committee, other than a state statutory
18 political committee, or a national political party shall not
19 in any one election make contributions which exceed five
20 thousand dollars to a candidate for any of the following
21 offices:

- 22 a. Office of the governor.
- 23 b. Office of lieutenant governor.
- 24 c. Office of secretary of state.
- 25 d. Office of treasurer of state.
- 26 e. Office of auditor of state.
- 27 f. Office of secretary of agriculture.
- 28 g. Office of attorney general.

29 4. A state statutory committee shall not in any one
30 election make contributions which exceed thirty-five thousand
31 dollars to a candidate for any of the following offices:

- 32 a. Office of the governor.
- 33 b. Office of lieutenant governor.
- 34 c. Office of secretary of state.
- 35 d. Office of treasurer of state.

- 1 e. Office of auditor of state.
2 f. Office of secretary of agriculture.
3 g. Office of attorney general.
4 5. A national political party shall not in any one
5 election make contributions which exceed fifty thousand
6 dollars to a candidate for any of the following offices:
7 a. Office of the governor.
8 b. Office of lieutenant governor.
9 c. Office of secretary of state.
10 d. Office of treasurer of state.
11 e. Office of auditor of state.
12 f. Office of secretary of agriculture.
13 g. Office of attorney general.
14 6. A political committee shall not in any one election
15 make contributions which exceed two thousand dollars to a
16 candidate for state legislative office.
17 Sec. 2. Section 56.15, subsections 1 and 4, Code 1995, are
18 amended to read as follows:
19 1. Except as provided in subsections 3 and 4, it is
20 unlawful for an insurance company, savings and loan
21 association, bank, credit union, or corporation organized
22 pursuant to the laws of this state or any other state,
23 territory, or foreign country, whether for profit or not, or
24 an officer, agent or representative acting for such insurance
25 company, savings and loan association, bank, credit union, or
26 corporation, to contribute any money, property, labor, or
27 thing of value, directly or indirectly, to a committee, or for
28 the purpose of influencing the vote of an elector, except that
29 such resources may be so expended in connection with a utility
30 franchise election held pursuant to section 364.2, subsection
31 ~~47-or-a-ballot-issue~~. All such expenditures are subject to
32 the disclosure requirements of this chapter.
33 4. The restrictions imposed by this section relative to
34 making, soliciting or receiving contributions shall not apply
35 to a nonprofit corporation or organization which uses those

1 contributions to encourage registration of voters and
2 participation in the political process, or to publicize public
3 issues, or both, but does not use any part of those
4 contributions to endorse or oppose any candidate for public
5 office or to support or oppose a ballot issue. ~~A-nonprofit~~
6 ~~corporation-or-organization-may-use-contributions-solicited-or~~
7 ~~received-to-support-or-oppose-ballot-issues-but-the~~
8 ~~expenditures-shall-be-disclosed-by-the-nonprofit-corporation~~
9 ~~or-organization-in-the-manner-provided-for-a-permanent~~
10 ~~organization-temporarily-engaged-in-a-political-activity-under~~
11 ~~section-56-6.~~

12 This section does not prohibit a family farm corporation,
13 as defined in section 9H.1, from placing a yard sign on
14 agricultural land, and does not prohibit the placement of yard
15 signs, with the prior written permission of the individual
16 property owner, on property rented or leased by a corporation
17 from private individuals, subject to the requirements of
18 section 56.14. This section also does not prohibit the
19 placement of a yard sign on residential property that is owned
20 by a corporation, but rented or leased to a private
21 individual, if the prior permission of the renter or lessee is
22 obtained.

23 EXPLANATION

24 This bill limits the size of contributions that may be made
25 by individuals and political committees. Contributions from
26 individuals are limited to \$5,000 for statewide candidates and
27 \$2,000 for legislative candidates. Political committees,
28 other than state statutory committees and national political
29 parties, are also limited in the size of contributions that
30 can be made to statewide candidates to \$5,000 and all
31 political committees are prohibited from contributing more
32 than \$2,000 to legislative candidates. State statutory
33 committees are prohibited from making contributions in excess
34 of \$35,000 to statewide candidates. National political
35 parties are prohibited from making contributions in excess of

1 \$50,000 to statewide candidates.

2 Contributions by for-profit and nonprofit corporations,
3 insurance companies, savings and loan associations, banks, and
4 credit unions to ballot issues are prohibited.

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