

MAR 4 1997  
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 421  
BY GARMAN

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing restrictions on contributions to political  
2 campaigns and making penalties applicable.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 421

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 56.5B LIMITATIONS ON  
2 CONTRIBUTIONS.

3 1. A political committee shall not make contributions  
4 that, during any election campaign cycle, in the aggregate,  
5 exceed five hundred dollars to any candidate or candidate's  
6 committee.

7 2. A political committee may make a contribution to a  
8 candidate or candidate's committee only if the political  
9 committee is organized as a political committee under section  
10 56.5, and all of its officers permanently reside in Iowa.

11 3. An individual shall not make contributions that, during  
12 any election campaign cycle, in the aggregate, exceed three  
13 hundred dollars to any candidate or candidate's committee.

14 4. An individual shall make contributions only to a  
15 candidate for whom the individual is legally entitled to vote  
16 at the time the contribution is made, or to such a candidate's  
17 committee.

18 5. A candidate or candidate's committee shall not  
19 knowingly accept any contribution in violation of this  
20 section.

21 6. For purposes of this section:

22 a. "Election campaign cycle" means the period of time  
23 between any general or special election commencing on the day  
24 following the previous election for that office, and  
25 continuing through election day.

26 b. "Political committee" shall not include a state  
27 statutory political committee, county statutory political  
28 committee, city statutory political committee, or national  
29 political party.

30 7. This section shall not apply to the following:

31 a. Contributions to Iowa candidates for the United States  
32 senate or house of representatives, or to any other candidate  
33 for federal office.

34 b. Transfers of campaign funds made pursuant to section  
35 56.42.

## EXPLANATION

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2 This bill adds a new section to chapter 56 establishing  
3 certain restrictions on contributions to political campaigns  
4 in Iowa.

5 Contribution limits are established for each election  
6 cycle, which is defined as the period of time from a general  
7 or special election, until the next election day for that  
8 office. Separate limits are established for political  
9 committees and individuals.

10 In addition, an individual may only make contributions to a  
11 candidate for whom that individual is legally entitled to  
12 vote. A political committee making a contribution to a  
13 candidate or candidate's committee must be organized under  
14 Code section 56.5, and all of its officers must permanently  
15 reside in Iowa.

16 Statutory political committees are not subject to these  
17 limitations. Contributions made or accepted in violation of  
18 these provisions are punishable as serious misdemeanors under  
19 Code section 56.16.

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