

FILED MAR 11 1997

SENATE FILE 399
BY KIBBIE

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the formation of a bipartisan commission to
2 recommend reforms in the laws relating to the financing of
3 political campaigns.

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

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S.F. 399

1 Section 1. CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMMISSION. The campaign
2 finance commission is established to study the laws relating
3 to the financing of elections for office and to recommend
4 reforms in these laws, according to the following:

5 1. Appointment. The commission shall be composed of seven
6 members, bipartisan and gender-balanced in accordance with
7 sections 69.16 and 69.16A, and appointed as follows:

8 a. Three members shall be the state chairs of each of the
9 political parties, as defined in section 43.2, or their
10 designees.

11 b. Four members shall be jointly appointed by the majority
12 and minority leaders of the house and senate. These members
13 shall be appointed from nonpartisan organizations which have
14 researched, studied, and advocated the issue of political
15 campaign finance reform for fifteen years or more, or who are
16 specially qualified to serve on the commission because of
17 training or experience.

18 c. The commission shall elect a chair and vice-chair at
19 its first meetings.

20 2. Terms. The members of the commission shall serve for
21 the life of the commission.

22 3. Vacancies. A vacancy in the commission shall be filled
23 in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

24 Sec. 2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

25 1. Hearings. The commission may hold hearings which shall
26 be open and announced in advance to the public, take
27 testimony, and receive evidence as the commission considers
28 appropriate. Activities of the commission shall be held in
29 accordance with chapter 21.

30 The commission shall hold at least one hearing in each
31 congressional district within the state specifically to obtain
32 public input on the issue of campaign finance reform.

33 2. Quorum. Four members of the commission shall
34 constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hearings.

35 3. Report. Not later than December 15, 1997, the

1 commission shall submit to the general assembly a report of
2 the activities of the commission, together with a draft of
3 legislation recommended by the commission to reform the laws
4 regarding the financing of political campaigns for
5 consideration by the general assembly in 1998 according to the
6 provisions of this Act.

7 4. Matters to be considered. In holding hearings and
8 preparing the report required under subsection 3, the
9 commission shall consider all issues related to campaign
10 finance reform, including, but not limited to expenditure
11 limits, expenditure and contribution disclosure, contribution
12 limits by individuals and committees, soft money, independent
13 expenditures, and negative campaigning. The commission may
14 secure directly from any department or agency such information
15 as the commission considers necessary, and the department or
16 agency shall promptly furnish such information to the
17 commission.

18 5. Staffing. Assistance shall be provided to the
19 commission by the central nonpartisan legislative staff
20 bureaus. The commission may utilize the services of the
21 legislative service bureau in formulating a draft of
22 legislation. The attorney general's office and the ethics and
23 campaign disclosure board shall serve as consultants, and
24 advise the commission as necessary.

25 Sec. 3. FAST-TRACK PROCEDURE.

26 1. The legislation drafted by the commission shall be
27 filed with each chamber on the first day of the 1998
28 legislative session, and immediately assigned to the committee
29 on state government in each chamber.

30 2. Each committee on state government shall have no more
31 than one week from the first day of the legislative session to
32 review the legislation. If approved by the committee, the
33 legislation shall immediately be placed on the calendar for
34 consideration by the full chamber. The legislation must be
35 approved or rejected by both chambers within thirty days of

1 the first day of the 1998 legislative session.

2 3. No amendment to the draft legislation shall be in order
3 in either chamber of the general assembly, either in committee
4 or on the floor. No motion to suspend the application of
5 these rules shall be in order in either chamber of the general
6 assembly, either in committee or on the floor.

7 4. All time periods under this section shall be calculated
8 according to calendar days. Weekends and days when the
9 general assembly is not in session shall be included in any
10 calculation.

11 Sec. 4. TERMINATION. The commission shall cease to exist
12 one month after the submission of its report under section 2
13 of this Act.

14 EXPLANATION

15 This bill creates the campaign finance commission, to
16 review issues related to campaign finance reform, to prepare a
17 report to be submitted to the legislature by December 15,
18 1997, and to prepare draft reform legislation. The members of
19 the commission are composed of the chairs of the state
20 political parties, representatives of nonpartisan
21 organizations that have studied and advocated campaign finance
22 reform, and a representative of the ethics and campaign
23 disclosure board. Public hearings shall be held in each
24 congressional district.

25 The bill provides for fast-track consideration of the draft
26 legislation by the general assembly. Both chambers must
27 debate and vote on the legislation, without any amendment,
28 within 30 days of the start of the 1998 legislative session.

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