

4-7-97 State Govt.
(Referred back)

FILED MAR 17 1997

SENATE FILE **509**

BY COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 305)

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act limiting the amount of contributions a candidate for
2 office may accept from outside the candidate's elective
3 district, and providing a penalty.

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

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S.F. 509

1 Section 1. Section 56.5A, Code 1997, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 56.5A CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE.

4 1. Each candidate for state, county, city, or school
5 office shall organize one, and only one, candidate's committee
6 for a specific office sought when the candidate receives
7 contributions in excess of five hundred dollars in the
8 aggregate, makes expenditures in excess of five hundred
9 dollars in the aggregate, or incurs indebtedness in excess of
10 five hundred dollars in the aggregate in a calendar year.

11 2. A political committee shall not be established to
12 support or oppose only one candidate for office, except that a
13 political committee may be established to support or oppose
14 approval of a single judge standing for retention.

15 3. a. A candidate's committee shall accept contributions
16 from sources other than voters registered within the district
17 represented by the office to which the candidate presently
18 seeks election, only to the extent that the candidate's
19 committee has received and deposited in the candidate's
20 campaign account, an equal or greater total of contributions
21 from voters registered within the district.

22 b. A candidate who accepts a contribution in violation of
23 this subsection shall be fined civilly in an amount equal to
24 ten times the amount by which the contribution exceeded the
25 permitted limit. The fine proceeds shall be deposited in the
26 Iowa election campaign fund created by section 56.19.

27 EXPLANATION

28 This bill amends Code chapter 56 to restrict a candidate's
29 committee in its acceptance of contributions from sources
30 other than registered voters within the candidate's district.
31 A candidate could accept funds from such sources only up to
32 the amount of funds that the candidate has collected from
33 voters registered within the candidate's district. The
34 penalty for violation of this prohibition would be a civil
35 fine equal to 10 times the amount accepted in excess of the

1 limitation.

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