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SENATE FILE 38

BY KIBBIE and LUNDBY

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act forming a bipartisan commission to recommend reforms in
 2 the laws relating to the financing of political campaigns.
 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 38
 STATE GOVERNMENT

1 Section 1. CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMMISSION. A 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 six
6 members, bipartisan and gender-balanced in accordance with
7 sections 69.16 and 69.16A, and appointed as follows:

8 a. Two 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 senate and house. 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, 1999, 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 2000 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 legislative
28 session beginning in the year 2000, and immediately assigned
29 to the committee 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 legislative session beginning in the year
2 2000.

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

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

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

15 EXPLANATION

16 This bill creates a campaign finance commission to review
17 issues related to campaign finance reform, to prepare a report
18 to be submitted to the legislature by December 15, 1999, and
19 to prepare draft reform legislation. The members of the
20 commission are composed of the two chairs of the state
21 political parties, and four representatives of nonpartisan
22 organizations that have studied and advocated campaign finance
23 reform. Public hearings shall be held in each congressional
24 district. The bill also provides for fast-track consideration
25 of the draft legislation by the general assembly. Both
26 chambers must debate and vote on the legislation, without any
27 amendment, within 30 days of the start of the legislative
28 session beginning in the year 2000.

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