

House File 276 - Introduced

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BY ISENHART

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for public financing in certain political
2 campaigns and making appropriations and including
3 applicability provisions.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 68A.610 Checkoff — income tax —
2 Iowa elections fund.

3 A person whose state income tax liability for any taxable
4 year is five dollars or more may direct that five dollars of
5 that liability be paid over to the Iowa elections fund, as
6 established in section 68A.802, when submitting the person's
7 state income tax return to the department of revenue. In the
8 case of married persons filing jointly and having a state
9 income tax liability of ten dollars or more, each spouse may
10 direct that five dollars be paid to the fund. The director of
11 revenue shall provide space for the Iowa elections fund income
12 tax checkoff on the income tax form. An explanation shall
13 be included which clearly states that this checkoff does not
14 constitute an additional tax liability. The action taken by a
15 person for the checkoff is irrevocable.

16 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 68A.801 Public campaign funding.

17 1. If a candidate for election to the house of
18 representatives or the senate is opposed on the ballot, the
19 Iowa elections fund shall match any eligible contribution
20 received by the candidate to that candidate's committee up to
21 a maximum of five thousand dollars for a primary election and
22 a maximum of five thousand dollars for the general election
23 for the house of representatives, and up to a maximum of ten
24 thousand dollars for a primary election and a maximum of ten
25 thousand dollars for the general election for the senate.

26 2. If a candidate for election to a statewide elective
27 office is opposed on the ballot, the Iowa elections fund shall
28 match any eligible contribution received by the candidate to
29 that candidate's committee up to a maximum of one hundred
30 thousand dollars for a primary election and a maximum of one
31 hundred thousand dollars for the general election for the
32 statewide elective office.

33 3. For purposes of subsections 1 and 2, "*eligible*
34 *contribution*" means a contribution of one hundred dollars or
35 less from an eligible elector residing in the candidate's

1 district.

2 4. Public contributions provided under this section
3 shall not be transferred to a political committee. When
4 a candidate's committee is closed, any unspent public
5 contributions shall be returned to the Iowa elections fund,
6 up to the amount received by the candidate in the last
7 election cycle during which the candidate received a public
8 contribution.

9 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 68A.802 Iowa elections fund — nature
10 and purposes.

11 1. An Iowa elections fund is established as a separate fund
12 within the office of the state treasurer under the control of
13 the board. The fund is established for the following purposes:

14 a. Providing financial assistance for state election
15 campaigns during primary election and general election campaign
16 periods pursuant to section 68A.801.

17 b. Paying for the administrative and enforcement costs of
18 the board in relation to this subchapter.

19 2. The fund shall consist of moneys received pursuant to
20 section 68A.803 and moneys appropriated to the fund pursuant
21 to subsection 3 of this section. Notwithstanding section 8.33
22 and section 12C.7, unencumbered or unobligated moneys and any
23 interest earned on moneys in the fund on June 30 of any fiscal
24 year shall not revert to the general fund of the state but
25 shall remain in the fund and be available for expenditure in
26 subsequent years.

27 3. a. For each year of the fiscal period beginning July 1,
28 2013, and ending June 30, 2016, there is appropriated annually
29 from the general fund of the state to the Iowa elections fund
30 the sum of two million two hundred fifty thousand dollars to
31 be used by the Iowa ethics and campaign disclosure board for
32 the purposes designated in subsection 1. This paragraph "a" is
33 repealed effective July 1, 2017.

34 b. Commencing with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017,
35 and each subsequent fiscal year, there is appropriated annually

1 from the general fund of the state to the Iowa elections fund
2 an amount sufficient to restore the balance of the fund to four
3 million five hundred thousand dollars for expenditure for the
4 purposes designated in subsection 1.

5 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 68A.803 Other sources of funding.

6 1. In addition to any moneys appropriated by the general
7 assembly to the fund established in section 68A.802, the
8 following moneys shall be deposited in the fund:

9 a. Moneys credited to the fund pursuant to section 68A.610.

10 b. Moneys distributed to any candidate who does not remain
11 a candidate until the primary or general election for which the
12 moneys were distributed.

13 c. Civil penalties levied by the board against candidates
14 for violation of this subchapter.

15 d. Voluntary donations made directly to the fund.

16 e. Any other sources of revenue designated by the general
17 assembly.

18 2. Moneys in the fund are appropriated annually to the Iowa
19 ethics and campaign disclosure board for purposes of section
20 68A.802, subsection 1.

21 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 68A.804 Rules promulgated.

22 The Iowa ethics and campaign disclosure board shall
23 administer the provisions of this subchapter and shall
24 promulgate all necessary rules in accordance with chapter 17A.

25 Sec. 6. Section 422.12E, subsection 1, Code 2013, is amended
26 to read as follows:

27 1. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2004,
28 there shall be allowed no more than four income tax return
29 checkoffs on each income tax return. When the same four income
30 tax return checkoffs have been provided on the income tax
31 return for two consecutive years, the two checkoffs for which
32 the least amount has been contributed, in the aggregate for the
33 first tax year and through March 15 of the second tax year, are
34 repealed. This section does not apply to the income tax return
35 ~~checkoff~~ checkoffs provided in ~~section~~ sections 68A.601 and

1 the fund, paid out of any refund owed the taxpayer.

2 The bill provides for several sources of revenue for the Iowa
3 elections fund:

4 1. Moneys credited to the fund pursuant to the checkoff in
5 new Code section 68A.610.

6 2. Moneys distributed to any candidate who does not remain a
7 candidate.

8 3. Civil penalties.

9 4. Voluntary donations.

10 5. Any other sources of revenue designated by the general
11 assembly.

12 The bill applies to the general election held in November
13 2014, and the related primary election, and to all subsequent
14 general and primary elections.