

House File 596 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 596

BY BAETH and ZABNER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act limiting campaign contributions to certain candidates,
2 and making penalties applicable.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 68A.507 Contribution limits for
2 candidates.

3 1. For the purposes of this section, "election campaign
4 cycle" means the time period between elections for a particular
5 office. Each primary, general, and special election is a
6 separate election campaign cycle. Separate contribution limits
7 for each type of election for a particular office, including
8 primary, general, and special elections, apply in an election
9 campaign cycle.

10 2. A person shall not make, and a candidate for the office
11 of a statewide elected official as defined in section 68B.2,
12 the candidate's committee, or anyone acting on behalf of the
13 candidate or candidate's committee shall not accept, any
14 contribution which will cause the total amount of the person's
15 contributions to the candidate or candidate's committee to
16 exceed the following amounts for an election campaign cycle:

17 a. From a political committee, four thousand dollars.

18 b. From a national political party, state statutory
19 political committee, or county statutory political committee,
20 forty thousand dollars.

21 c. From any other natural person, four thousand dollars.

22 3. A person shall not make, and a candidate for state
23 senator or state representative, the candidate's committee,
24 or anyone acting on behalf of the candidate or candidate's
25 committee shall not accept, any contribution which will cause
26 the total amount of the person's contributions to the candidate
27 or candidate's committee to exceed the following amounts for an
28 election campaign cycle:

29 a. From a political committee, one thousand dollars.

30 b. From a national political party, state statutory
31 political committee, or county statutory political committee,
32 ten thousand dollars.

33 c. From any other natural person, one thousand dollars.

34 EXPLANATION

35 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

1 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2 This bill imposes campaign contribution limits on candidates
3 for statewide elected office and candidates for state senator
4 or representative. In an election campaign cycle for statewide
5 elected office, a political committee shall not contribute more
6 than \$4,000 to one candidate; a national political party, state
7 statutory political committee, or county statutory political
8 committee shall not contribute more than \$40,000; and any other
9 natural person shall not contribute more than \$4,000. For a
10 candidate for state senator or representative, a political
11 committee shall not contribute more than \$1,000; a national
12 political party, state statutory political committee, or county
13 statutory political committee shall not contribute more than
14 \$10,000; and any other natural person shall not contribute more
15 than \$1,000.

16 A person who violates the bill is subject to penalties
17 pursuant to Code section 68B.32D. A person who willfully
18 violates the bill is guilty of a serious misdemeanor (Code
19 section 68A.701). A serious misdemeanor is punishable by
20 confinement for no more than one year and a fine of at least
21 \$430 but not more than \$2,560.

22 A variety of civil remedies are also available in Code
23 section 68B.32D for a violation of Code chapter 68A or rules
24 of the ethics and campaign disclosure board, ranging from a
25 reprimand to a civil penalty of not more than \$2,000.