

House File 376 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 376

BY BAETH, WICHTENDAHL, MADISON,
OLSON, KRESSIG, GOSA,
SCHEETZ, BAGNIEWSKI, and
CROKEN

A BILL FOR

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

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

unofficial

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
11 office of a statewide elected official as defined in section
12 68B.2, the candidate's committee, or anyone acting on behalf
13 of the 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 exceed
16 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 political
19 committee, or county statutory political committee, forty
20 thousand dollars.

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

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

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

30 b. From a national political party, state statutory political
31 committee, or county statutory political committee, ten thousand
32 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
10 a 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 violates
18 the bill is guilty of a serious misdemeanor (Code section
19 68A.701). A serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for
20 no more than one year and a fine of at least \$430 but not more
21 than \$2,560.

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