

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 225(JUD) am S

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Amended: 5/17/99

Offered: 5/16/99

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES COWDERY, Kohring

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to election campaigns and legislative ethics; and providing for
2 an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** PURPOSE. In the interest of attracting Alaska's best and brightest to
5 legislative service and retaining their services in the citizen legislature, and recognizing that
6 legislators are not full-time servants of the state but rather individuals with separate careers
7 whose business and personal obligations demand attention during the legislative session, it is
8 the purpose of this Act to minimize the burdens on candidates and legislators imposed by
9 Alaska's campaign finance and legislative ethics laws, without compromising the efficacy of
10 those laws.

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 15.13.030 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

12 (b) In applying this chapter and adopting regulations under this chapter, the
13 commission shall narrowly interpret the applicable statutes and the commission's
14 powers concerning contributions to candidates and requirements for financial reports

1 from candidates to ensure that campaigns for public office are conducted in a manner
 2 that imposes the fewest burdens necessary on citizens, candidates, and groups to
 3 comply with statutory contribution limits and to provide appropriate information to the
 4 public. If a statute is ambiguous, the commission shall consider the intent of the
 5 legislature in interpreting the statute.

6 * **Sec. 3.** AS 15.13.040 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 (j) The results of a poll limited to issues and not mentioning any candidate
 8 may not be considered a contribution. The results of a poll provided to a candidate
 9 that mention a candidate may not be considered a contribution to the candidate to
 10 whom the poll results were provided unless the poll was requested by or designed
 11 primarily to benefit the candidate.

12 * **Sec. 4.** AS 15.13.050(b) is amended to read:

13 (b) If a group intends to support only one candidate, or to contribute to or
 14 expend on behalf of one candidate 33 1/3 percent or more of its funds, the name of
 15 the candidate shall be a part of the name of the group. If the group intends to oppose
 16 only one candidate [,] or to contribute its funds in opposition to or make expenditures
 17 in opposition to a candidate, the group's name must clearly state that it opposes that
 18 candidate by using a word such as "opposes," "opposing," "in opposition to," or
 19 "against" in the group's name. Promptly upon receiving the registration, the
 20 commission shall notify the candidate of the group's organization and intent. **More**
 21 **than one group may be registered by a candidate to support that candidate;**
 22 **however, multiple groups controlled by a single candidate shall be treated as a**
 23 **single group for purposes of the contribution limit in AS 15.13.070(b)(1).**

24 * **Sec. 5.** AS 15.13.074(c) as repealed and reenacted by sec. 12, ch. 48, SLA 1996, is
 25 amended to read:

26 (c) A person or group may not make a contribution

27 (1) to a candidate **for governor or lieutenant governor** or an
 28 individual who files with the commission the document necessary to permit that
 29 individual to incur certain election-related expenses as authorized by AS 15.13.100 **for**
 30 **governor or lieutenant governor** when the office is to be filled at a general election
 31 before **January 1 following** [THE DATE THAT IS 18 MONTHS BEFORE] the **last**

1 general election **in which a governor was elected;**

2 (2) **to a candidate for the state legislature or municipal office or an**
 3 **individual who files with the commission the document necessary to permit that**
 4 **individual to incur certain election-related expenses for the state legislature or**
 5 **municipal office as authorized by AS 15.13.100 when the office is to be filled at**
 6 **a general election before the date that is 18 months before the general election;**

7 (3) to a candidate or an individual who files with the commission the
 8 document necessary to permit that individual to incur certain election-related expenses
 9 as authorized by AS 15.13.100 for an office that is to be filled at a special election or
 10 municipal election before the date that is 18 months before the date of the regular
 11 municipal election or that is before the date of the proclamation of the special election
 12 at which the candidate or individual seeks election to public office; or

13 (4) [(3)] to any candidate **after the earlier of December 31 of the**
 14 **year of the election or the 60th** [LATER THAN THE 45TH] day

15 (A) after the date of a primary election if the candidate

16 (i) has been nominated at the primary election or is
 17 running as a write-in candidate; and

18 (ii) is not opposed at the general election;

19 (B) after the date of the primary election if the candidate was
 20 not nominated at the primary election; or

21 (C) after the date of the general election, or after the date of a
 22 municipal or municipal runoff election, if the candidate was opposed at the
 23 general, municipal, or municipal runoff election.

24 * **Sec. 6.** AS 15.13.074(f) is amended to read:

25 (f) A corporation, company, partnership, firm, association, organization,
 26 business trust or surety, labor union, or publicly funded entity that does not satisfy the
 27 definition of group in AS 15.13.400 may not make a contribution to a candidate or
 28 group. **Notwithstanding the prohibition set out in this subsection, a corporation,**
 29 **company, partnership, firm, association, organization, business trust or surety,**
 30 **labor union, or publicly funded entity may sponsor a political party event within**
 31 **this state by paying for advertising, food, hall rental, and other actual costs**

1 **associated with the event.**

2 * **Sec. 7.** AS 15.13.078 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

3 (e) A campaign expenditure for goods or services made by the candidate from
4 personal funds or by cash, personal check, or personal credit card and reimbursed to
5 the candidate by the campaign before the end of the reporting period for the report due
6 February 15 under AS 15.13.110(a) is not a loan or contribution for purposes of this
7 section and shall be reported to the commission as a campaign expenditure.

8 * **Sec. 8.** AS 15.13.110(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) Each candidate and group shall make a full report in accordance with
10 AS 15.13.040 for the period ending three days before the due date of the report and
11 beginning on the last day covered by the most recent previous report. If the report is
12 a first report, it shall cover the period from the beginning of the campaign to the date
13 three days before the due date of the report. If the report is a report due February 15,
14 it shall cover the period beginning on the last day covered by the most recent previous
15 report or on the day that the campaign started, whichever is later, and ending on
16 December 31 of the prior year. The report shall be filed

17 (1) 30 days before the election; however, this report is not required if
18 the deadline for filing a nominating petition or declaration of candidacy is within 30
19 days of the election;

20 (2) one week before the election;

21 (3) 10 days after the election; and

22 (4) February 15 for expenditures made and contributions received that
23 were not reported during the previous year, including, if applicable, all amounts
24 expended from a public office expense term account established under **AS 15.13.118**
25 [AS 15.13.116(a)(8)] and all amounts expended from a municipal office account under
26 AS 15.13.116(a)(9), or when expenditures were not made or contributions were not
27 received during the previous year.

28 * **Sec. 9.** AS 15.13.116(a) is amended to read:

29 (a) A candidate who, after the date of the general, special, municipal, or
30 municipal runoff election or after the date the candidate withdraws as a candidate,
31 whichever comes first, holds unused campaign contributions shall distribute the amount

1 held within 90 days. The distribution may only be made to

2 (1) pay bills incurred for expenditures reasonably related to the
3 campaign and the winding up of the affairs of the campaign, including a victory or
4 thank you party, thank you advertisements, and thank you gifts to campaign
5 employees and volunteers, and to pay expenditures associated with post-election fund
6 raising that may be needed to raise funds to pay off campaign debts;

7 (2) make donations, without condition, to

8 (A) a political party;

9 (B) the state's general fund;

10 (C) a municipality of the state; or

11 (D) the federal government;

12 (3) make donations, without condition, to organizations qualified as
13 charitable organizations under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3), provided the organization is not
14 controlled by the candidate or a member of the candidate's immediate family;

15 (4) repay loans from the candidate to the candidate's own campaign
16 under AS 15.13.078(b);

17 (5) repay contributions to contributors, but only if repayment of the
18 contribution is made pro rata in approximate proportion to the contributions made
19 using one of the following, as the candidate determines:

20 (A) to all contributors;

21 (B) to contributors who have contributed most recently; or

22 (C) to contributors who have made larger contributions;

23 (6) establish a fund for, and from that fund to pay, attorney fees or
24 costs incurred in the prosecution or defense of an administrative or civil judicial action
25 that directly concerns a challenge to the victory or defeat of the candidate in the
26 election;

27 (7) transfer all or a portion of the unused campaign contributions to
28 [AN ACCOUNT FOR] a future election campaign account in accordance with
29 AS 15.13.117 [; A TRANSFER UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH IS LIMITED TO

30 (A) \$50,000, IF THE TRANSFER IS MADE BY A
31 CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR OR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR;

1 (B) \$10,000, IF THE TRANSFER IS MADE BY A
2 CANDIDATE FOR THE STATE SENATE;

3 (C) \$5,000, IF THE TRANSFER IS MADE BY A CANDIDATE
4 FOR THE STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; AND

5 (D) \$5,000, IF THE TRANSFER IS MADE BY A
6 CANDIDATE FOR AN OFFICE NOT DESCRIBED IN (A) - (C) OF THIS
7 PARAGRAPH];

8 (8) transfer all or a portion of the unused campaign contributions to a
9 public office expense term account [OR TO A PUBLIC OFFICE EXPENSE TERM
10 ACCOUNT RESERVE] in accordance with AS 15.13.118 [(d) OF THIS SECTION;
11 A TRANSFER UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH IS SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING:

12 (A) THE AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER IS LIMITED TO
13 CANDIDATES WHO ARE ELECTED TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE;

14 (B) THE PUBLIC OFFICE EXPENSE TERM ACCOUNT
15 ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY BE USED ONLY FOR
16 EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CANDIDATE'S SERVING AS A
17 MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE;

18 (C) ALL AMOUNTS EXPENDED FROM THE PUBLIC
19 OFFICE EXPENSE TERM ACCOUNT SHALL BE ANNUALLY
20 ACCOUNTED FOR UNDER AS 15.13.110(a)(4); AND

21 (D) A TRANSFER UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH IS LIMITED
22 TO \$5,000 MULTIPLIED BY THE NUMBER OF YEARS IN THE TERM TO
23 WHICH THE CANDIDATE IS ELECTED]; and

24 (9) transfer all or a portion of the unused campaign contributions to a
25 municipal office account; a transfer under this paragraph is subject to the following:

26 (A) the authority to transfer is limited to candidates who are
27 elected to municipal office, including a municipal school board;

28 (B) the municipal office account established under this
29 paragraph may be used only for expenses associated with the candidate's
30 serving as mayor or as a member of the assembly, city council, or school
31 board;

1 (C) all amounts expended from the municipal office account
2 shall be annually accounted for under AS 15.13.110(a)(4); and

3 (D) a transfer under this paragraph is limited to \$5,000.

4 * **Sec. 10.** AS 15.13.116(b) is amended to read:

5 (b) After a general, special, municipal, or municipal runoff election, a
6 candidate may retain the ownership of one computer and one printer and of personal
7 property, except money, that was acquired by and for use in the campaign. The
8 current fair market value of the property retained, exclusive of the computer and
9 printer, may not exceed **\$5,000** [\$2,500]. All other property shall be disposed of, or
10 sold and the sale proceeds disposed of, in accordance with (a) or (c) of this section.
11 Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,

12 **(1)** a candidate may **(A)** [(1)] retain a bulk mailing permit that was
13 paid for with campaign funds, and **(B)** [(2)] use personal funds, campaign funds, or
14 unused campaign contributions transferred to a public office expense term account
15 under **AS 15.13.118** [(a)(8) OF THIS SECTION] to pay the continuing charges for the
16 permit after the election; **money** [. MONEY] used to continue the life of the permit
17 is not considered to be a contribution under this chapter; **in** [. IN] addition to any
18 other use permitted under this chapter, during the candidate's term of office, the
19 candidate may use the bulk mailing permit for mailings associated with service in the
20 office to which the candidate was elected; **during** [. DURING] the candidate's term
21 of office, if the candidate files a declaration of candidacy or **the document necessary**
22 **to permit the candidate to incur election-related expenses under AS 15.13.100** [A
23 LETTER OF INTENT TO BECOME A CANDIDATE] for the same or a different
24 elective office, the candidate may also use the bulk mailing permit in that election
25 campaign;

26 **(2) a candidate may retain campaign photographs and use the**
27 **photographs for any purpose associated with service in the office to which the**
28 **candidate was elected;**

29 **(3) a candidate may retain seasonal greeting cards purchased with**
30 **campaign funds; and**

31 **(4) campaign signs prepared for an election that has already taken**

place have no monetary value and may be retained or disposed of at the candidate's discretion.

* **Sec. 11.** AS 15.13 is amended by adding new sections to read:

Sec. 15.13.117. Future election campaign accounts. (a) Unused campaign contributions may be transferred to one or more future election campaign accounts. Before transferring unused campaign contributions to a future election campaign account, a candidate must file a letter of intent to campaign for election with the commission. The letter of intent may specify the office to be sought and must specify the election year in which the campaign will take place. If the letter of intent does not specify the office to be sought, a maximum of \$20,000 may be transferred for campaigns for state office and a maximum of \$10,000 for campaigns for municipal office. If the letter of intent does not specify that a state office is to be sought, a maximum of \$10,000 may be transferred. Contributions may be transferred to an account for a future campaign for election to an office other than that for which they were originally raised.

(b) If a candidate seeks election to a different office than that specified in the letter of intent filed under (a) of this section, the candidate may use only that portion of the amount transferred that would have been permitted under this subsection for the office actually campaigned for. Any excess funds transferred are forfeited to the state under AS 15.13.116(c). Any contributions that could not have been accepted under AS 15.13.072 or 15.13.074 for a campaign for the office actually campaigned for are forfeited to the state under AS 15.13.116(c). If the candidate does not actually seek election to any office at the election specified in the letter of intent, the entire balance of the account is forfeited to the state under AS 15.13.116(c).

(c) For an office specified in a letter of intent under (a) of this section, a candidate may transfer to a future campaign account an amount not exceeding

- (1) \$100,000 for a future campaign for governor or lieutenant governor;
- (2) \$40,000 for a future campaign for the state senate;
- (3) \$20,000 for a future campaign for the state house of representatives;
- (4) \$60,000 for a future campaign for mayor of a municipality with a population greater than 100,000;

1 (5) \$40,000 for a future campaign for mayor of a municipality with a
2 population greater than 50,000 but not exceeding 100,000;

3 (6) \$20,000 for a future campaign for mayor of a municipality with a
4 population not exceeding 50,000; and

5 (7) \$10,000 for an office not described in (A) - (F) of this paragraph.

6 (d) A candidate may use \$1,000 of the funds in a future election campaign
7 account each year for unconditional donations to one or more organizations qualified
8 as charitable organizations under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3), provided the organizations are
9 not controlled by the candidate or a member of the candidate's immediate family.

10 (e) A candidate may use \$1,000 of the funds in a future election campaign
11 account each year for the cost of attending, or paying the cost for guests of the
12 candidate to attend, an event or other function sponsored by a political party or
13 subordinate unit of a political party.

14 **Sec. 15.13.118. Public office expense term accounts.** (a) After a general or
15 special election, a candidate who has been elected to the state legislature in that
16 election may establish a public office expense term account reserve with unused
17 campaign contributions. A candidate for the senate may transfer up to \$40,000 in
18 unused campaign contributions into a public office expense term account reserve. A
19 candidate for the house of representatives may transfer up to \$16,000 in unused
20 campaign contributions to a public office expense term account reserve. The public
21 office expense term account reserve may only be used to make transfers to a public
22 office expense term account.

23 (b) A candidate elected to the senate may transfer up to \$10,000 each calendar
24 year from a public office expense term account reserve to a public office expense term
25 account. A candidate elected to the house may transfer up to \$8,000 each calendar
26 year from a public office expense term account reserve to a public office expense term
27 account. A candidate elected to the legislature may also transfer any interest that has
28 accrued in the candidate's public office expense term account reserve to a public office
29 expense term account. If, during a calendar year, a candidate transfers less than the
30 permitted amount from a public office expense term account reserve to a public office
31 expense term account, the excess may be carried over in the reserve and transferred

1 in a subsequent calendar year. At the end of the candidate's term of office, a balance
 2 in the public office expense term account reserve must be disposed of only as
 3 authorized by AS 15.13.116(a)(2), (3), or (5).

4 (c) Funds in a public office expense term account may be used only for
 5 expenses associated with the candidate's serving as a member of the legislature,
 6 including the unconditional donation of up to \$1,000 a year to one or more
 7 organizations qualified as charitable organizations under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3), provided
 8 the organization is not controlled by the candidate or a member of the candidate's
 9 immediate family. Funds in a public office expense term account or public office
 10 expense term account reserve shall be annually accounted for under
 11 AS 15.13.110(a)(4).

12 * **Sec. 12.** AS 15.13.145(b) is amended to read:

13 (b) Money held by an entity identified in (a)(1) - (3) of this section may be
 14 used to influence the outcome of an election concerning a ballot proposition or
 15 question **if the use is permitted under AS 24.60.030(a)(5)(H) or** [, BUT ONLY] if
 16 the funds have been specifically appropriated for that purpose by a state law or a
 17 municipal ordinance.

18 * **Sec. 13.** AS 15.13.400(3) is amended to read:

19 (3) "contribution"

20 (A) means a purchase, payment, promise or obligation to pay,
 21 loan or loan guarantee, deposit or gift of money, goods, or services for which
 22 charge is ordinarily made and that is made for the purpose of influencing the
 23 nomination or election of a candidate, and in AS 15.13.010(b) for the purpose
 24 of influencing a ballot proposition or question, including the payment by a
 25 person other than a candidate or political party, or compensation for the
 26 personal services of another person, that are rendered to the candidate or
 27 political party;

28 (B) does not include

29 (i) services provided without compensation by
 30 individuals volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a
 31 **political party**, candidate, or ballot proposition or question [, BUT IT

1 DOES INCLUDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES VOLUNTEERED BY
 2 INDIVIDUALS FOR WHICH THEY ORDINARILY WOULD BE
 3 PAID A FEE OR WAGE];

4 (ii) services provided by an accountant or other person
 5 to prepare reports and statements required by this chapter; [OR]

6 (iii) ordinary hospitality in a home;

7 **(iv) professional legal or accounting services that are**
 8 **provided to a candidate, group, or political party without**
 9 **compensation by an attorney or accountant; the nature or form of**
 10 **the entity under which the attorney or accountant conducts the**
 11 **attorney's or accountant's professional practice does not affect the**
 12 **exception; or**

13 **(v) mass mailings by each political party describing**
 14 **the party's slate of candidates for election, which may include**
 15 **photographs and biographies of the party's candidates;**

16 * Sec. 14. AS 24.60.030(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) A legislator or legislative employee may not

18 (1) solicit, agree to accept, or accept a benefit other than official
 19 compensation for the performance of public duties; this paragraph may not be
 20 construed to prohibit lawful solicitation for and acceptance of campaign contributions
 21 or the acceptance of a lawful gratuity under AS 24.60.080;

22 (2) use public funds, facilities, equipment, services, or another
 23 government asset or resource for a nonlegislative purpose, for involvement in or
 24 support of or opposition to partisan political activity, or for the private benefit of either
 25 the legislator, legislative employee, or another person; this paragraph does not prohibit

26 (A) limited use of state property and resources for personal
 27 purposes if the use does not interfere with the performance of public duties and
 28 either the cost or value related to the use is nominal or the legislator or
 29 legislative employee reimburses the state for the cost of the use;

30 (B) the use of mailing lists, computer data, or other information
 31 lawfully obtained from a government agency and available to the general public

1 for nonlegislative purposes;

2 (C) telephone or facsimile use that does not carry a special
3 charge;

4 (D) the legislative council, notwithstanding AS 24.05.190, from
5 designating a public facility for use by legislators and legislative employees for
6 health or fitness purposes; when the council designates a facility to be used by
7 legislators and legislative employees for health or fitness purposes, it shall
8 adopt guidelines governing access to and use of the facility; the guidelines may
9 establish times in which use of the facility is limited to specific groups; [OR]

10 (E) a legislator from using the legislator's private office in the
11 capital city during a legislative session, and for the 10 [FIVE] days
12 immediately before and the 10 [FIVE] days immediately after a legislative
13 session, for nonlegislative purposes if the use does not interfere with the
14 performance of public duties and if there is no cost to the state for the use of
15 the space and equipment, other than utility costs and minimal wear and tear,
16 or the legislator promptly reimburses the state for the cost; an office is
17 considered a legislator's private office under this subparagraph if it is the
18 primary space in the capital city reserved for use by the legislator, whether or
19 not it is shared with others;

20 **(F) a legislator from use of legislative employees to prepare**
21 **and send out seasonal greeting cards;**

22 **(G) a legislator from using state resources to transport**
23 **computers or other office equipment owned by the legislator but primarily**
24 **used for a state function;**

25 **(H) use by a legislator of photographs of that legislator;**

26 **(I) reasonable use of the Internet by a legislator or a**
27 **legislative employee except if the use is for election campaign purposes; or**

28 **(J) a legislator from soliciting, accepting, or receiving a gift**
29 **on behalf of a recognized, nonpolitical charitable organization in a state**
30 **facility;**

31 (3) knowingly seek, accept, use, allocate, grant, or award public funds

1 for a purpose other than that approved by law, or make a false statement in connection
 2 with a claim, request, or application for compensation, reimbursement, or travel
 3 allowances from public funds;

4 (4) require a legislative employee to perform services for the private
 5 benefit of the legislator or employee at any time, or allow a legislative employee to
 6 perform services for the private benefit of a legislator or employee on government
 7 time; it is not a violation of this paragraph if the services were performed in an
 8 unusual or infrequent situation and the person's services were reasonably necessary to
 9 permit the legislator or legislative employee to perform official duties;

10 (5) use or authorize the use of state funds, facilities, equipment,
 11 services, or another government asset or resource for the purpose of political fund
 12 raising or campaigning; this paragraph does not prohibit

13 (A) limited use of state property and resources for personal
 14 purposes if the use does not interfere with the performance of public duties and
 15 either the cost or value related to the use is nominal or the legislator or
 16 legislative employee reimburses the state for the cost of the use;

17 (B) the use of mailing lists, computer data, or other information
 18 lawfully obtained from a government agency and available to the general public
 19 for nonlegislative purposes;

20 (C) telephone or facsimile use that does not carry a special
 21 charge;

22 (D) storing or maintaining, consistent with (b) of this section,
 23 election campaign records in a legislator's office; [OR]

24 (E) a legislator from using the legislator's private office in the
 25 capital city during a legislative session, and for the 10 [FIVE] days
 26 immediately before and the 10 [FIVE] days immediately after a legislative
 27 session, for nonlegislative purposes if the use does not interfere with the
 28 performance of public duties and if there is no cost to the state for the use of
 29 the space and equipment, other than utility costs and minimal wear and tear,
 30 or the legislator promptly reimburses the state for the cost; an office is
 31 considered a legislator's private office under this subparagraph if it is the

1 primary space in the capital city reserved for use by the legislator, whether or
2 not it is shared with others;

3 (F) use by a legislator of photographs of that legislator;

4 (G) reasonable use of the Internet by a legislator or a
5 legislative employee except if the use is for election campaign purposes; or

6 (H) use of governmental resources, including paid staff time,
7 to support or oppose a proposed initiative or an amendment to the state
8 or federal constitution; a legislator or legislative employee may support or
9 oppose a proposed initiative or constitutional amendment; however, a
10 legislator or legislative employee may not use governmental resources to
11 solicit contributions for or gather signatures on an initiative petition; a
12 legislative employee may not, on government time, accept or receive
13 contributions relating to a proposed constitutional amendment or initiative.

14 * **Sec. 15.** AS 24.60.080 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

15 (l) A legislator may solicit, accept, or receive a gift on behalf of an organized
16 group of legislators, but the gift may only be used to cover the cost of the meetings
17 or activities of the organized group within this state. The value of a gift authorized
18 by this subsection may not be included in determining the value of gifts under (a) of
19 this section. This subsection does not authorize a gift from a lobbyist. In this
20 subsection, "organized group of legislators" means two or more legislators organized
21 for a particular purpose not related to an individual's election campaign, other than a
22 majority caucus, minority caucus, or party caucus.

23 * **Sec. 16.** AS 24.60.090 is repealed and reenacted to read:

24 **Sec. 24.60.090. Nepotism.** (a) An individual who is related to a member of
25 the legislature may not be employed for compensation

26 (1) during the legislative session in the house in which the legislator
27 is a member;

28 (2) by an agency of the legislature established under AS 24.20; or

29 (3) in either house during the interim between sessions.

30 (b) An individual who is related to a member of the legislature may not be
31 employed by the committee, whether for compensation or not.

1 (c) An individual who is related to a legislative employee may not be
2 employed in a position over which the employee has supervisory authority.

3 (d) Notwithstanding (a)(3) of this section, an individual who is related to a
4 member of the legislature may be employed in the other house of the legislature during
5 the interim between sessions if, while the individual was disqualified from employment
6 in either house of the legislature during the interim under (a)(3) of this section, the
7 individual worked for at least 100 days during each of four regular legislative sessions.

8 (e) In this section,

9 (1) "an individual who is related to" means a member of the legislator's
10 or legislative employee's immediate family or a person who is living together in a
11 conjugal relationship not a legal marriage with the legislator or legislative employee;

12 (2) "interim between sessions" means the period beginning on the
13 eighth day after the legislature adjourns from a regular or special session and ending
14 eight days before the date that the legislature next convenes in regular session under
15 AS 24.05.090 or in special session under AS 24.05.100;

16 (3) "other house of the legislature" means the house in which the
17 individual's relation is not a member.

18 * **Sec. 17.** AS 24.60.150 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

19 (c) In carrying out these duties, the committee shall interpret this chapter in
20 the manner that is no more restrictive of the actions of legislators than is necessary to
21 implement the intent of the law. If a statute is ambiguous, the committee shall
22 consider the intent of the legislature in interpreting the statute.

23 * **Sec. 18.** AS 15.13.116(d) is repealed.

24 * **Sec. 19.** Section 5 of this Act takes effect on the later of the effective date set out in
25 sec. 20 of this Act or on the date that, under sec. 34, ch. 48, SLA 1996, sec. 12, ch. 48, SLA
26 1996, takes effect.

27 * **Sec. 20.** Except as provided in sec. 19 of this Act, this Act takes effect December 1,
28 1999.