

**HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 103(RLS)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/21/01

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to election campaigns and legislative ethics."**

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

3 \* **Section 1.** AS 15.13.050(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) If a group intends to support only one candidate [,] or to contribute to or  
5 expend on behalf of one candidate 33 1/3 percent or more of its funds, the name of the  
6 candidate shall be a part of the name of the group. If the group intends to oppose only  
7 one candidate [,] or to contribute its funds in opposition to or make expenditures in  
8 opposition to a candidate, the group's name must clearly state that it opposes that  
9 candidate by using a word such as "opposes," "opposing," "in opposition to," or  
10 "against" in the group's name. Promptly upon receiving the registration, the  
11 commission shall notify the candidate of the group's organization and intent. A  
12 candidate may register more than one group to support the candidate; however,  
13 multiple groups controlled by a single candidate shall be treated as a single group  
14 for purposes of the contribution limit in AS 15.13.070(b)(1).

15 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 15.13.070(b) is amended to read:

1 (b) An individual may contribute not more than

2 (1) \$500 per year to a candidate, to an individual who conducts a  
3 write-in campaign as a candidate, or to a group that is not a political party;

4 (2) \$5,000 per year to a political party **for the purpose of influencing**  
5 **the nomination or election of a candidate or candidates.**

6 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 15.13.080(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) An individual who contributes \$500, or goods or services with a value of  
8 \$500, to a candidate shall file a contributor's statement as required by this section. **A**  
9 **candidate who receives \$500, or goods or services of a value of \$500, may file a**  
10 **contributor's statement as required under this section on behalf of the**  
11 **contributor.**

12 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 15.13.116(a) is amended to read:

13 (a) A candidate who, after the date of the general, special, municipal, or  
14 municipal runoff election or after the date the candidate withdraws as a candidate,  
15 whichever comes first, holds unused campaign contributions shall distribute the  
16 amount held within 90 days. The distribution may only be made to

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

22 (2) make donations, without condition, to

23 (A) a political party;

24 (B) the state's general fund;

25 (C) a municipality of the state; or

26 (D) the federal government;

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

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

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

4 (A) to all contributors;

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

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

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

11 (7) transfer all or a portion of the unused campaign contributions to an  
 12 account for a future election campaign; a transfer under this paragraph is limited to

13 (A) \$50,000, if the transfer is made by a candidate for governor  
 14 or lieutenant governor;

15 (B) \$10,000, if the transfer is made by a candidate for the state  
 16 senate;

17 (C) \$5,000, if the transfer is made by a candidate for the state  
 18 house of representatives; and

19 (D) \$5,000, if the transfer is made by a candidate for an office  
 20 not described in (A) - (C) of this paragraph;

21 (8) transfer all or a portion of the unused campaign contributions to a  
 22 public office expense term account or to a public office expense term account reserve  
 23 in accordance with (d) of this section; a transfer under this paragraph is subject to the  
 24 following:

25 (A) the authority to transfer is limited to candidates who are  
 26 elected to the state legislature;

27 (B) the public office expense term account established under  
 28 this paragraph may be used only for expenses associated with the candidate's  
 29 serving as a member of the legislature;

30 (C) all amounts expended from the public office expense term  
 31 account shall be annually accounted for under AS 15.13.110(a)(4); and

1 (D) a transfer under this paragraph is limited to \$5,000  
 2 multiplied by the number of years in the term to which the candidate is elected  
 3 **plus any accumulated interest**; and

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

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

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

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

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

15 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 15.13.116(b) is amended to read:

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

23 **(1)** a candidate may **(A)** [(1)] retain a bulk mailing permit that was  
 24 paid for with campaign funds, and **(B)** [(2)] use personal funds, campaign funds, or  
 25 unused campaign contributions transferred to a public office expense term account  
 26 under (a)(8) of this section to pay the continuing charges for the permit after the  
 27 election; **money** [. MONEY] used to continue the life of the permit is not considered  
 28 to be a contribution under this chapter; **in** [. IN] addition to any other use permitted  
 29 under this chapter, during the candidate's term of office, the candidate may use the  
 30 bulk mailing permit for mailings associated with service in the office to which the  
 31 candidate was elected; **during** [. DURING] the candidate's term of office, if the

1 candidate files a declaration of candidacy or **the document necessary to permit the**  
 2 **candidate to incur election-related expenses under AS 15.13.100** [A LETTER OF  
 3 INTENT TO BECOME A CANDIDATE] for the same or a different elective office,  
 4 the candidate may also use the bulk mailing permit in that election campaign;

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

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

10 **(4) campaign signs prepared for an election that has already taken**  
 11 **place have no monetary value and may be retained or disposed of at the**  
 12 **candidate's discretion.**

13 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 15.13.116(d) is amended to read:

14 (d) After a general or special election, a candidate for the state legislature who  
 15 has been elected to the state legislature in that election may, from the amount retained  
 16 in the public office expense term account reserve under this subsection, transfer to a  
 17 public office expense term account not more than \$5,000 each calendar year for use  
 18 only for expenses associated with the candidate's serving as a member of the  
 19 legislature, **except that a candidate elected to the senate whose term is two years**  
 20 **may transfer \$10,000 each calendar year.** A candidate for the senate may transfer  
 21 up to \$20,000 from unused campaign contributions to a public office expense term  
 22 account reserve. A candidate for the house of representatives may transfer up to  
 23 \$10,000 from unused campaign contributions to a public office expense term account  
 24 reserve. The public office expense term account reserve may only be used to make  
 25 transfers to the public office expense term account. At the end of the candidate's term  
 26 of office, a balance in the public office expense term account reserve must be disposed  
 27 of as provided in (a) of this section but may not be disposed of as provided in (a)(1),  
 28 (4), or (6) - (9) of this section. All amounts expended under this subsection shall be  
 29 annually accounted for under AS 15.13.110(a)(4).

30 \* **Sec. 7.** AS 15.13.400(3) is amended to read:

31 (3) "contribution"

1 (A) means a purchase, payment, promise or obligation to pay,  
 2 loan or loan guarantee, deposit or gift of money, goods, or services for which  
 3 charge is ordinarily made and that is made for the purpose of influencing the  
 4 nomination or election of a candidate, and in AS 15.13.010(b) for the purpose  
 5 of influencing a ballot proposition or question, including the payment by a  
 6 person other than a candidate or political party, or compensation for the  
 7 personal services of another person, that are rendered to the candidate or  
 8 political party;

9 (B) does not include

10 (i) services provided without compensation by  
 11 individuals volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a  
 12 **political party**, candidate, or ballot proposition or question [, BUT IT  
 13 DOES INCLUDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES VOLUNTEERED  
 14 BY INDIVIDUALS FOR WHICH THEY ORDINARILY WOULD  
 15 BE PAID A FEE OR WAGE];

16 (ii) [SERVICES PROVIDED BY AN ACCOUNTANT  
 17 OR OTHER PERSON TO PREPARE REPORTS AND  
 18 STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY THIS CHAPTER; OR

19 (iii)] ordinary hospitality in a home;

20 **(iii) two or fewer mass mailings before each election**  
 21 **by each political party describing the party's slate of candidates for**  
 22 **election, which may include photographs, biographies, and**  
 23 **information about the party's candidates;**

24 **(iv) the results of a poll limited to issues and not**  
 25 **mentioning any candidate, unless the poll was requested by or**  
 26 **designed primarily to benefit the candidate; or**

27 **(v) any communication in the form of a newsletter**  
 28 **from a legislator to the legislator's constituents, except a**  
 29 **communication expressly advocating the election or defeat of a**  
 30 **candidate or a newsletter or material in a newsletter that is clearly**  
 31 **only for the private benefit of a legislator or a legislative employee;**

1 \* **Sec. 8.** AS 15.13.400(4) is amended to read:

2 (4) "expenditure"

3 (A) means a purchase or a transfer of money or anything of  
4 value, or promise or agreement to purchase or transfer money or anything of  
5 value, incurred or made for the purpose of

6 (i) influencing the nomination or election of a candidate  
7 or of any individual who files for nomination at a later date and  
8 becomes a candidate;

9 (ii) use by a political party;

10 (iii) the payment by a person other than a candidate or  
11 political party of compensation for the personal services of another  
12 person that are rendered to a candidate or political party; or

13 (iv) influencing the outcome of a ballot proposition or  
14 question;

15 (B) does not include

16 (i) a candidate's filing fee or the cost of preparing  
17 reports and statements required by this chapter; or

18 (ii) communications by a corporation to its  
19 stockholders and employees, or by a nonprofit corporation, labor  
20 organization, or unincorporated business or trade association to its  
21 employees and members, on any subject;

22 \* **Sec. 9.** AS 24.60.030(a) is amended to read:

23 (a) A legislator or legislative employee may not

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

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

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

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

8 (C) telephone or facsimile use that does not carry a special  
 9 charge;

10 (D) the legislative council, notwithstanding AS 24.05.190,  
 11 from designating a public facility for use by legislators and legislative  
 12 employees for health or fitness purposes; when the council designates a facility  
 13 to be used by legislators and legislative employees for health or fitness  
 14 purposes, it shall adopt guidelines governing access to and use of the facility;  
 15 the guidelines may establish times in which use of the facility is limited to  
 16 specific groups; [OR]

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 **(K) a legislator from sending any communication in the**  
 8 **form of a newsletter to the legislator's constituents, except a**  
 9 **communication expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate**  
 10 **or a newsletter or material in a newsletter that is clearly only for the**  
 11 **private benefit of a legislator or a legislative employee;**

12 (3) knowingly seek, accept, use, allocate, grant, or award public funds  
 13 for a purpose other than that approved by law, or make a false statement in connection  
 14 with a claim, request, or application for compensation, reimbursement, or travel  
 15 allowances from public funds;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 **(F) use by a legislator of photographs of that legislator; or**

16 **(G) reasonable use of governmental resources by a**  
17 **legislator or legislative employee to support or oppose a proposed**  
18 **amendment to the state or federal constitution; a legislator or legislative**  
19 **employee may support or oppose a proposed constitutional amendment;**  
20 **however, a legislator or legislative employee may not use governmental**  
21 **resources to solicit or receive contributions for a proposed constitutional**  
22 **amendment.**

23 \* **Sec. 10.** AS 24.60.080(c) is amended to read:

24 (c) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, it is not a violation of this section for a  
25 legislator or legislative employee to accept

26 (1) hospitality, other than hospitality described in (4) of this  
27 subsection,

28 (A) with incidental transportation at the residence of a person;  
29 however, a vacation home located outside the state is not considered a  
30 residence for the purposes of this subparagraph; or

31 (B) at a social event or meal;

1 (2) discounts that are available

2 (A) generally to the public or to a large class of persons to  
3 which the person belongs; or

4 (B) when on official state business, but only if receipt of the  
5 discount benefits the state;

6 (3) food or foodstuffs indigenous to the state that are shared generally  
7 as a cultural or social norm;

8 (4) travel and hospitality primarily for the purpose of obtaining  
9 information on matters of legislative concern;

10 (5) gifts from the immediate family of the person;

11 (6) gifts that are not connected with the recipient's legislative status;

12 (7) a discount for all or part of a legislative session, including time  
13 immediately preceding or following the session, or other gift to welcome a legislator  
14 or legislative employee who is employed on the personal staff of a legislator or by a  
15 standing or special committee to the capital city or in recognition of the beginning of a  
16 legislative session if the gift or discount is available generally to all legislators and the  
17 personal staff of legislators and staff of standing and special committees; this  
18 paragraph does not apply to legislative employees who are employed by the  
19 Legislative Affairs Agency, the office of the chief clerk, the office of the senate  
20 secretary, the legislative budget and audit committee, or the office of the ombudsman;  
21 [OR]

22 (8) a gift of legal services in a matter of legislative concern and a gift  
23 of other services related to the provision of legal services in a matter of legislative  
24 concern; or

25 **(9) a gift of transportation from a legislator to a legislator if the**  
26 **transportation takes place in the state on or in an aircraft, boat, motor vehicle, or**  
27 **other means of transport owned or under the control of the donor; this**  
28 **paragraph does not apply to travel described in (4) of this subsection or travel for**  
29 **political campaign purposes.**