

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 234(STA) am(efd fld)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Amended: 3/14/22

Offered: 3/2/22

Referred: State Affairs

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SCHRAGE, Fields, Josephson

SENATORS Kawasaki, Begich, Wielechowski, Kiehl, Gray-Jackson

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to political contributions; relating to the location of offices for the**
2 **Alaska Public Offices Commission and the locations at which certain statements and**
3 **reports filed with the commission are made available."**

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

5 * **Section 1.** AS 15.13.020(j) is amended to read:

6 (j) The commission shall establish **a central** [AN] office [, WHICH MAY BE
7 CALLED A REGIONAL OFFICE, IN EACH SENATE DISTRICT IN THE STATE]
8 to keep on file for public inspection copies of all reports filed with the commission
9 [BY CANDIDATES FOR STATEWIDE OFFICE AND BY CANDIDATES FOR
10 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE IN THAT DISTRICT; HOWEVER, WHERE ONE
11 MUNICIPALITY CONTAINS MORE THAN ONE HOUSE DISTRICT, ONLY
12 ONE COMMISSION OFFICE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN THAT
13 MUNICIPALITY. THE REGIONAL OFFICE SHALL MAKE ALL FORMS AND
14 PERTINENT MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO CANDIDATES. ALL REPORTS

SHALL BE FILED BY CANDIDATES, GROUPS, AND INDIVIDUALS DIRECTLY WITH THE COMMISSION'S CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE. THE COMMISSION SHALL ENSURE THAT COPIES OF ALL REPORTS BY STATEWIDE AND LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES IN EACH SENATE DISTRICT ARE FORWARDED PROMPTLY TO THAT DISTRICT OR REGIONAL OFFICE].

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

(b) **Except as provided in (h) of this section, an** [AN] individual may contribute not more than

(1) **\$2,000 each campaign period** [\$500 PER YEAR] to a nongroup entity for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of a candidate, to a candidate, **or** to an individual who conducts a write-in campaign as a candidate [, OR TO A GROUP THAT IS NOT A POLITICAL PARTY];

(2) \$5,000 **a** [PER] year to a political party **or other group**.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 15.13.070(c) is amended to read:

(c) **Except as provided in (h) of this section, a** [A] group that is not a political party may contribute not more than

(1) **\$4,000 each campaign period** [\$1,000 PER YEAR (1)] to a candidate, or to an individual who conducts a write-in campaign as a candidate;

(2) **\$5,000 each year** to another group, to a nongroup entity, or to a political party.

* **Sec. 4.** AS 15.13.070(f) is amended to read:

(f) **Except as provided in (h) of this section, a** [A] nongroup entity may contribute not more than

(1) **\$4,000 each campaign period** [\$1,000 A YEAR] to another nongroup entity for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of a candidate, to a candidate, **or** to an individual who conducts a write-in campaign as a candidate;

(2) **\$5,000 each year** [,] to a group [,] or to a political party.

* **Sec. 5.** AS 15.13.070(g) is amended to read:

(g) Where contributions are made to a joint campaign for governor and lieutenant governor,

(1) an individual may contribute not more than **\$4,000 each campaign period** [\$1,000 PER YEAR]; and

(2) a group may contribute not more than **\$8,000 each campaign period** [\$2,000 PER YEAR].

* **Sec. 6.** AS 15.13.070 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(h) The contribution limits provided under (b)(1), (c)(2), and (f) of this section do not apply to an individual, group, or nongroup entity contributing to a group or nongroup entity that makes only independent expenditures.

(i) Beginning in the first quarter of calendar year 2031 and every 10 years thereafter, the commission shall, by regulation, adjust the contribution limitations set out in this section by a percentage equal to the percentage of increase over the preceding 10-year period in all items of the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for Anchorage, Alaska, rounded to the nearest \$50 increment.

* **Sec. 7.** AS 15.13.072(e) is amended to read:

(e) A candidate or an individual who has filed with the commission the document necessary to permit that individual to incur election-related expenses under AS 15.13.100 may solicit or accept contributions from an individual who is not a resident of the state at the time the contribution is made, **but the amounts accepted from individuals who are not residents may not exceed 25 percent of the total contributions made to the candidate or individual during the campaign** [IF THE AMOUNTS CONTRIBUTED BY INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT RESIDENTS DO NOT EXCEED

(1) \$20,000 A CALENDAR YEAR, IF THE CANDIDATE OR INDIVIDUAL IS SEEKING THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR OR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR;

(2) \$5,000 A CALENDAR YEAR, IF THE CANDIDATE OR INDIVIDUAL IS SEEKING THE OFFICE OF STATE SENATOR;

(3) \$3,000 A CALENDAR YEAR, IF THE CANDIDATE OR INDIVIDUAL IS SEEKING THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE OR MUNICIPAL OR OTHER OFFICE].

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

(i) During a campaign period, the commission may not change the manner or format in which reports required of a candidate under this chapter must be filed. [IN THIS SUBSECTION, "CAMPAIGN PERIOD" MEANS THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON THE DATE THAT A CANDIDATE BECOMES ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER THIS CHAPTER AND ENDING ON THE DATE THAT A FINAL REPORT FOR THAT SAME CAMPAIGN MUST BE FILED.]

* **Sec. 9.** AS 15.13.400 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(20) "campaign period" means the period beginning on the date that a candidate becomes eligible to receive campaign contributions under this chapter and ending on the date that a final report for that same campaign must be filed.

* **Sec. 10.** AS 24.45.091 is amended to read:

Sec. 24.45.091. Publication of reports. Copies of the statements and reports filed under this chapter shall be made available to the public at the commission's central office and on the commission's Internet website [, THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY OF THE LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY, AND AT THE COMMISSION'S DISTRICT OFFICES PRESCRIBED IN AS 15.13.020(j)] as soon as practicable after each reporting period.

* **Sec. 11.** AS 24.45.111(b) is amended to read:

(b) The commission shall preserve the statements and reports required to be filed under this chapter for a period of six years from the date of filing. **Copies** [IF THE COMMISSION'S CENTRAL OFFICE IS NOT IN THE STATE CAPITAL, COPIES] of all statements and reports filed under this chapter shall be maintained in the commission's central [AN] office and be made available on the commission's Internet website [ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION IN THE STATE CAPITAL OR IN THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR].

* **Sec. 12.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

APPLICABILITY. Section 13 of this Act does not apply to a campaign contribution made to influence the outcome of an election that occurred on or before the effective date of

1 this Act.

2 * **Sec. 13.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
3 read:

4 RETROACTIVITY. AS 15.13.070(b), as amended by sec. 2 of this Act,
5 AS 15.13.070(c), as amended by sec. 3 of this Act, AS 15.13.070(f), as amended by sec. 4 of
6 this Act, AS 15.13.070(g), as amended by sec. 5 of this Act, AS 15.13.070(h), added by sec. 6
7 of this Act, and AS 15.13.400(20), added by sec. 9 of this Act, are retroactive to March 3,
8 2022.