

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 17(JUD)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/20/24

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATOR KAWASAKI

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to political contributions; and providing for an effective date."

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

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

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

*** 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 urban Alaska, rounded to the nearest \$50 increment.

* **Sec. 7.** 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. 8.** 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. 9.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

APPLICABILITY. The contribution limits of AS 15.13.070(b), as amended by sec. 2 of this Act, AS 15.13.070(c), as amended by sec. 3 of this Act, AS 15.13.070(f), as amended by sec. 4 of this Act, and AS 15.13.070(g), as amended by sec. 5 of this Act, apply to a contribution made to influence the outcome of an election that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act.

* **Sec. 10.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).