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Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary
and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THOMPSON AND CLOCKSIN

2

SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 136

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to campaign financing."

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

8 * Section 1. AS 15.13 is amended by adding new sections to read:

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ARTICLE 2. CAMPAIGN FINANCING FUND.

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Sec. 15.13.200. CAMPAIGN FINANCING FUND CREATED. (a) There is

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created in the general fund a campaign financing fund. The fund is

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established in the Department of Administration and consists of con-

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tributions from private individuals and donations from permanent fund

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dividends under AS 15.13.210. The fund shall be used to provide

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grants to candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, or the Alaska

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legislature who qualify under AS 15.13.220.

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(b) The Alaska Public Offices Commission shall administer the

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campaign financing fund in accordance with AS 15.13.200 - 15.13.240.

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The commission may adopt regulations to implement this program.

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Sec. 15.13.210. DONATIONS TO CAMPAIGN FINANCING FUND. (a) The

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commissioner of revenue shall inform all applicants for permanent fund

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dividends about the campaign financing fund and shall provide on the

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permanent fund dividend application form a space to indicate whether

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or not the applicant wishes to authorize the commissioner to donate \$2

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from the applicant's dividend to the campaign financing fund. The

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commissioner shall also provide space in which the applicant may

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instruct the commissioner to donate a greater sum, not to exceed the

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total amount of the applicant's dividend, to the campaign financing

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fund.

1 (b) An individual may donate money directly to the campaign
2 financing fund.

3 Sec. 15.13.220. CAMPAIGN FINANCING FUND GRANTS. (a) A candi-
4 date for governor, lieutenant governor, or the Alaska legislature may
5 apply to the commission for a grant from the fund. To be eligible a
6 candidate must

7 (1) appear on the general election ballot prepared under
8 AS 15.15.030;

9 (2) file a statement with the commission promising to limit
10 campaign expenditures in the general election in accordance with
11 AS 15.13.230;

12 (3) have already received contributions for the political
13 campaign of at least 10 percent of the spending limit for that office
14 set out in AS 15.13.230; and

15 (4) apply on a form provided by the commission.

16 (b) The commission shall provide grants to eligible candidates
17 in an amount equal to the amount the candidate has raised from contri-
18 butions at the time of application. However, a candidate may not
19 receive a grant of more than 10 percent of the spending limit estab-
20 lished in AS 15.13.230 for the office for which the candidate is
21 seeking election. If the balance in the campaign financing fund
22 appears insufficient to fully fund all the expected applications from
23 candidates, the commission shall make proportionate grants to candi-
24 dates and at the end of the campaign shall issue supplemental grants
25 from any remaining funds.

26 (c) The total amount of all contributions to the general election
27 campaign of a candidate who receives a grant under this section may
28 not exceed the spending limit for that office under AS 15.13.230. In
29 this subsection, "contributions" includes all funds contributed by the

1 candidate and any grant from the campaign financing fund. If a
2 candidate who has received a grant receives contributions that exceed
3 the spending limit, the candidate may return the excess amount of the
4 grant to the commission within 10 days of learning of the excess and
5 avoid the penalty imposed by AS 15.13.240.

6 (d) The commission may establish filing deadlines for applica-
7 tions and for supplemental applications by regulation.

8 Sec. 15.13.230. SPENDING LIMIT. (a) A candidate who applies
9 for a grant under AS 15.13.220 must agree to limit expenditures during
10 that general election. A candidate for governor must agree to limit
11 expenditures to \$500,000; a candidate for lieutenant governor must
12 agree to limit expenditures to \$500,000; a candidate for the state
13 senate must agree to limit expenditures to \$75,000; and a candidate
14 for the state house of representatives must agree to limit expendi-
15 tures to \$35,000.

16 (b) A candidate may not rescind an agreement filed under this
17 section and it remains in effect for all expenses related to that
18 general election. In this section an obligation is considered a
19 general election expense if it was incurred after the date of the
20 primary election.

21 Sec. 15.13.240. PENALTIES. (a) A candidate subject to the
22 spending limits of AS 15.13.230 who makes or permits the candidate's
23 campaign treasurer to make expenditures in excess of the limits im-
24 posed by AS 15.13.230 is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

25 (b) A candidate subject to the spending limits of AS 15.13.230
26 who accepts or permits the candidate's campaign treasurer to accept a
27 grant in violation of AS 15.13.220 is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

28 * Sec. 2. AS 15.13.130 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

29 (8) "commission" means the Alaska Public Offices

1 Commission.

2 * Sec. 3. AS 43.20.013(a) is amended to read:

3 (a) A resident individual is entitled to a tax credit not to
4 exceed a total of \$100 for

5 (1) a contribution made in a calendar year to a person or
6 organization for use exclusively

7 (A) for a political campaign for a candidate for

8 (i) President or Vice-President of the United
9 States, whether or not the candidate will be voted on in a
10 primary election in Alaska;

11 (ii) United States senator from Alaska;

12 (iii) United States representative from Alaska;

13 (iv) governor or lieutenant governor of Alaska;

14 (v) the Alaska legislature;

15 (vi) delegate to an Alaska constitutional conven-
16 tion;

17 (vii) electoral confirmation as a judge or justice
18 of a court in Alaska; or

19 (viii) municipal office in Alaska; or

20 (B) by a group seeking to influence the outcome of a
21 ballot proposition or question in Alaska; [AND]

22 (2) dues paid in a calendar year to a nonprofit organiza-
23 tion organized primarily for the purpose of influencing elections in
24 Alaska; and

25 (3) a donation to the campaign financing fund established
26 in AS 15.13.200.