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Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary
and Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE BILL NO. 134

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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 establishing a fair campaign financing
7 program."

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

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

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ARTICLE 2. FAIR CAMPAIGN FINANCING FUND.

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Sec. 15.13.200. FAIR CAMPAIGN FINANCING FUND CREATED. (a)

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There is created in the general fund a fair campaign financing fund.

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The legislature may appropriate to the Fair Campaign Financing Fund as

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necessary to achieve the purposes of AS 15.13.200 - 15.13.220. The

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fund shall be used to provide grants to candidates for governor,

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lieutenant governor, or the Alaska legislature who qualify under

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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 - 15.13.220.

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The commission may adopt regulations to implement this program.

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Sec. 15.13.210. CAMPAIGN FINANCING FUND GRANTS. (a) A candi-

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date for governor, lieutenant governor, or the Alaska legislature may

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apply to the commission for a grant from the fund. To be eligible a

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candidate must

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(1) appear on the general election ballot prepared under

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AS 15.15.030;

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(2) be in a contested general election;

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(3) file a statement with the commission promising to limit

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campaign expenditures in the primary and general election under

1 AS 15.13.220;

2 (4) have received contributions amounting to at least 10
3 percent of the spending limit for the office under AS 15.13.220; and

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

5 (b) The commission shall provide grants to eligible candidates
6 in an amount equal to the amount the candidate has raised from
7 individuals resident in the state from contributions of \$100 or less
8 at the time of application. A candidate may not receive a grant of
9 more than 40 percent of the spending limit established in AS 15.13.220
10 for the office for which the candidate is seeking election.

11 (c) The total amount of all contributions to the primary and
12 general election campaign of a candidate who receives a grant under
13 this section may not exceed the spending limit for that office under
14 AS 15.13.220. In this subsection, "contributions" includes all funds
15 contributed by the candidate and any grant from the campaign financing
16 fund. If a candidate who has received a grant receives contributions
17 that exceed the spending limit, the candidate may return the excess
18 amount of the grant to the commission within 10 days of learning of
19 the excess.

20 (d) The commission may establish by regulation filing deadlines
21 for applications.

22 Sec. 15.13.220. SPENDING LIMIT. (a) A candidate for governor
23 who applies for a grant under AS 15.13.210 agrees to limit
24 expenditures during the primary and general election to \$2 times the
25 number of registered voters in the state on June 1 of the year of the
26 election as determined by the director of elections, or \$700,000,
27 whichever is greater.

28 (b) A candidate for lieutenant governor who applies for a grant
29 under AS 15.13.210 agrees to limit expenditures during the primary and

1 general election to \$.50 times the number of registered voters in the
2 state on June 1 of the year of the election as determined by the
3 director of elections, or \$150,000, whichever is greater.

4 (c) A candidate for the state senate who applies for a grant
5 under AS 15.13.210 agrees to limit expenditures during the primary and
6 general election to \$2 times the number of registered voters in the
7 particular senate district on June 1 of the year of the election as
8 determined by the director of elections, or \$50,000, whichever is
9 greater.

10 (d) A candidate for the state house of representatives who
11 applies for a grant under AS 15.13.210 agrees to limit expenditures
12 during the primary and general election to \$2 times the number of
13 registered voters in the particular house district on June 1 of the
14 year of the election as determined by the director of elections, or
15 \$25,000, whichever is greater.

16 (e) A candidate may not rescind an agreement filed under this
17 section, and it remains in effect for all expenses related to the
18 primary and general election.

19 * Sec. 2. AS 15.13.120(a) is amended to read:

20 (a) A person who violates a provision of this chapter is guilty
21 of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, is punishable by imprisonment
22 for not more than one year and [OR] by a fine of not more than \$5,000
23 or four times the amount of the violation, whichever is more. A
24 violation includes but is not limited to any of the following acts or
25 omissions:

26 (1) failing to make a statement or report required to be
27 made under this chapter, or failing to make a statement or report at
28 the time the statement or report is required to be made under this
29 chapter;

1 (2) [MAKING A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION OR EXPENDITURE WHICH
2 EXCEEDS THE LIMITATIONS OF AS 15.13.070(f);
3 (3)] making a false statement or report under this chapter;
4 (3) [(4)] giving or furnishing money to another person or
5 group for the purpose of making a contribution or expenditure anony-
6 mously, in a fictitious name, or in the name of another, or contribut-
7 ing in violation of AS 15.13.070(d);
8 (4) [(5)] making a communication to support or defeat a
9 candidate without identification of sponsorship, in violation of
10 AS 15.13.090;
11 (5) [(6)] knowingly accepting a contribution in violation
12 of AS 15.13.070.