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Referred: State Affairs,
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Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

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2 SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 134

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 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:

10 ARTICLE 2. FAIR CAMPAIGN FINANCING FUND.

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

12 There is created in the general fund a fair campaign financing fund.
13 The legislature may appropriate to the Fair Campaign Financing Fund as
14 necessary to achieve the purposes of AS 15.13.200 - 15.13.230. The
15 fund shall be used to provide grants to candidates for governor,
16 lieutenant governor, or the Alaska legislature who qualify under
17 AS 15.13.220.

18 (b) The Alaska Public Offices Commission shall administer the
19 campaign financing fund in accordance with AS 15.13.200 - 15.13.230.
20 The commission may adopt regulations to implement this program.

21 Sec. 15.13.210. CAMPAIGN FINANCING FUND GRANTS. (a) A candi-
22 date for governor, lieutenant governor, or the Alaska legislature may
23 apply to the commission for a grant from the fund. To be eligible a
24 candidate must

25 (1) appear on the general election ballot prepared under
26 AS 15.15.030;

27 (2) be in a contested general election;

28 (3) file a statement with the commission promising to limit
29 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. 15.13.230. GRANT AWARDS. (a) Except as provided in (b) of
20 this section, the commission shall award the grant to each candidate
21 who has qualified for a grant under AS 15.13.210 on the 30th day after
22 the primary election.

23 (b) If there is an election recount pending under AS 15.20.430 -
24 15.20.530 or an election contest pending under AS 15.20.540 - 15.20.-
25 560 on the 30th day after the primary election, the commission shall
26 award the grant on the certification of the candidate.

27 * Sec. 2. AS 15.13.120 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

28 (i) A person convicted of a violation of this section may be
29 ordered by the commission to repay funds granted under AS 15.13.210.