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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 137

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to elections."

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

8 * Section 1. The legislature determines that the payment of a political
9 contribution to a successful candidate after a general election raises
10 questions involving a conflict of interest of the elected official. This
11 Act is enacted in an attempt to regulate that conduct and assure that
12 proper standards of conduct are maintained in elections to public office
13 and in the acceptance of contributions by a candidate for public office.

14 * Sec. 2. AS 15.13 is amended by adding new sections to read:

15 Sec. 15.13.041. PROHIBITED CONTRIBUTIONS. (a) A person may not
16 make a contribution to a candidate and the candidate may not accept a
17 contribution on and after the day of the general election through
18 June 1 of the year in which the candidate next files a declaration of
19 candidacy or nominating petition for office.

20 (b) A person may not make a contribution to a candidate and the
21 candidate may not accept a contribution on and after the day of the
22 municipal election through the date that is 150 days before the date
23 of a municipal election at which the candidate will seek election.

24 (c) A person may not make a contribution to a candidate and the
25 candidate may not accept a contribution on and after the day of the
26 special election through the date described in (a) or (b) or this
27 section.

28 (d) This section does not apply to a candidate for statewide
29 office.

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

2 (a) A person or group, including but not limited to political
3 committees, businesses, corporations, and labor unions, may not con-
4 tribute more than \$1,000 a year to a candidate for statewide elective
5 office. A [NO] person or group, including but not limited to [ALL]
6 political committees, businesses, corporations, and labor unions, may
7 not contribute [TO OR EXPEND] more than \$500 [\$1,000] a year to a
8 candidate [ON BEHALF OF OR IN OPPOSITION TO THE COMPETING CANDIDATES]
9 for each nonstatewide elective office or to a group. Political
10 parties and their subdivisions are not subject to the limitation
11 prescribed in this subsection, but they are subject to the reporting
12 requirements prescribed by AS 15.13.040(b) and 15.13.110. Nothing in
13 this chapter prohibits

14 (1) a candidate from contributing more than \$500 of person-
15 al funds to the personal campaign of the candidate [\$1,000 OF HIS OWN
16 MONEY TO HIS OWN CAMPAIGN]; or

17 (2) independent expenditures [INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS, IN-
18 CLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ALL POLITICAL COMMITTEES, BUSINESSES,
19 CORPORATIONS, AND LABOR UNIONS, FROM CONTRIBUTING TO OR EXPENDING ON
20 BEHALF OF A BALLOT PROPOSITION OR QUESTION MORE THAN \$1,000 A YEAR;
21 HOWEVER, THESE CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES SHALL BE] reported in
22 accordance with AS 15.13.040 and 15.13.110.

23 * Sec. 4. AS 15.25.040 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

24 (e) Except for a statewide candidate, a declaration may not be
25 filed before January 2 of the year in which the election will be held.

26 * Sec. 5. AS 15.25.150 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

27 (b) Except for a statewide candidate, a petition may not be
28 filed before January 2 of the year in which the election will be held.

29 * Sec. 6. AS 29.26.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

1 (c) A nominating petition or declaration of candidacy may not be
2 filed more than 150 days before the election at which the candidate
3 seeks election.