

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BROWN, ELLIS, DAVIS, FRANK,
SWACKHAMMER AND MENARD

2 SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR 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 the duration and financing of
7 election campaigns."

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

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

10 Sec. 15.13.065. LIMITATIONS ON ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS. (a) A
11 candidate may accept a contribution only during an election campaign
12 under this section.

13 (b) During the election campaign, a candidate for the office of
14 governor or lieutenant governor may accept

15 (1) not more than \$1,000 in contributions from a person, a
16 group other than a political party or its subdivisions, a corporation,
17 or a labor union;

18 (2) a cumulative total of not more than \$40,000 in contri-
19 butions from corporations, labor unions, and groups other than politi-
20 cal parties and their subdivisions;

21 (3) a cumulative total of not more than \$40,000 in contri-
22 butions from political parties and their subdivisions.

23 (c) During the election campaign, a candidate for the state
24 senate may accept

25 (1) not more than \$1,000 in contributions from a person, a
26 group other than a political party or its subdivisions, a corporation,
27 or a labor union;

28 (2) a cumulative total of not more than \$20,000 in contri-
29 butions from corporations, labor unions, and groups other than

1 political parties and their subdivisions;

2 (3) a cumulative total of not more than \$20,000 in contri-
3 butions from political parties and their subdivisions.

4 (d) During the election campaign, a candidate for the state
5 house of representatives may accept

6 (1) not more than \$1,000 in contributions from a person, a
7 group other than a political party or its subdivisions, a corporation,
8 or a labor union;

9 (2) a cumulative total of not more than \$10,000 in contri-
10 butions from corporations, labor unions, and groups other than politi-
11 cal parties and their subdivisions;

12 (3) a cumulative total of not more than \$10,000 in contri-
13 butions from political parties and their subdivisions.

14 (e) During the election campaign, a candidate for municipal
15 office and a candidate for any other office not described in (b) - (d)
16 of this section may accept

17 (1) not more than \$1,000 in contributions from a person, a
18 group other than a political party or its subdivisions, a corporation,
19 or a labor union;

20 (2) a cumulative total of not more than \$10,000 in contri-
21 butions from corporations, labor unions, and groups other than politi-
22 cal parties and their subdivisions;

23 (3) a cumulative total of not more than \$10,000 in contri-
24 butions from political parties and their subdivisions.

25 (f) A candidate is subject to the limitations established in
26 this section only for the office for which the candidate most recently
27 filed a declaration of candidacy or nominating petition. A candidate
28 who withdraws as a candidate for an office and refiles for an office
29 with a lower limitation on the acceptance of campaign contributions

1 shall return the amount of each contribution that exceeds the limita-
2 tions established for the current candidacy. Notwithstanding the
3 provisions of this subsection, a candidate is not required to return a
4 contribution spent in a good faith effort to seek election to the
5 office with the higher limitation.

6 (g) In this section, "election campaign" means the period from
7 January 2 of the year in which the candidate files a declaration of
8 candidacy or a nominating petition through the day before the date of
9 the general election or the municipal election.

10 * Sec. 2. AS 15.13.070 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

11 (i) A candidate for public office may not take contributions as
12 personal income during an election campaign, as defined in AS 15.13.-
13 065, or during tenure as an elected public official.

14 * Sec. 3. AS 15.13.125 is amended to read:

15 Sec. 15.13.125. CIVIL PENALTIES [PENALTY: LATE FILING OF REQUIR-
16 ED REPORTS]. A person who fails to file a properly completed and
17 certified report within the time required by AS 15.13.110(a)(1), (3),
18 (4) or 15.13.110(d) is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$10
19 a day for each day the delinquency continues as determined by the
20 commission subject to right of appeal to the superior court. A person
21 who fails to file a properly completed and certified report within the
22 time required by AS 15.13.110(a)(2) or 15.13.110(b) is subject to a
23 civil penalty of not more than \$50 a day for each day the delinquency
24 continues as determined by the commission subject to right of appeal
25 to the superior court. A candidate who accepts a contribution in
26 violation of AS 15.13.065 or 15.13.070 is subject to a civil penalty
27 of not more than five times the amount of the contribution accepted.
28 An affidavit stating facts in mitigation may be submitted to the
29 commission by a person against whom a civil penalty is assessed.

1 However, the imposition of the penalties prescribed in this section or
2 in AS 15.13.120 does not excuse that person from filing reports re-
3 quired by this chapter.

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

5 (e) A statewide candidate may not file a declaration before
6 January 2 of the year preceding the year in which the election will be
7 held. Except for a statewide candidate, a declaration may not be
8 filed before January 2 of the year in which the election will be held.

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

10 (b) A statewide candidate may not file a petition before
11 January 2 of the year preceding the year in which the election will be
12 held. Except for a statewide candidate, a petition may not be filed
13 before January 2 of the year in which the election will be held.

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

15 (c) A nominating petition or declaration of candidacy may not be
16 filed before January 2 of the year in which the election is to be
17 held.

18 * Sec. 7. The prohibition in AS 15.13.065, as added by sec. 1 of this
19 Act, against a candidate accepting a contribution after the date of the
20 general election through the dates specified in AS 15.13.065 does not apply
21 to contributions accepted by a candidate or elected public official after
22 the effective date of this Act that are used to retire campaign debt in
23 existence on January 1, 1987.

24 * Sec. 8. AS 15.13.070(a) is repealed.